HIGH LOONIE HERE TO STAY: EXPERTS, PG 22

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Style pg 38

Clogs take step back from the future

Metro hits 500,000 daily readers

SURVEY Half a million strong, every day: Metro Toronto's readership has continued to grow, according to results released yesterday by the Newspaper Audience Databank (NADbank).

The 2009 survey indicated Metro Toronto has topped half a million daily readers and has more than one million weekly readers in the area including Whitby and Oshawa — that's the highest percentage growth of any daily newspaper in Toronto. Metro's readership in the Toronto census metropolitan area increased by eight per cent to 485,900 daily readers.

The NADbank survey also found that Metro reaches more readers in the city of Toronto than the Sun and 24 Hours combined. City of Toronto readership increased to 359,900 from 330,700 daily readers.

Nationally, Metro Canada now reaches 1,293,100 daily and 2,764,500 weekly readers from coast to coast. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Raptors

Luck o' the Irish?

RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Atlanta Hawks Marvin Williams soars above the rim over Toronto Raptors Chris Bosh to grab a rebound last night at the ACC. Bosh scored the eventual winning basket as Toronto won 106-105 to snap a five-game losing streak. The Raptors wore green uniforms in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. More coverage, page 26. Exclusive Raptors highlights, see top of page 24.

School bytes

Province plans to launch a full online university

Learning about Socrates through Facebook forums and chatting with a professor through Skype is the reality for students as e-learning claims a more dominate role in higher education.

Ontario is the latest jurisdiction to jump in with plans to launch the province's first fully online university, and that has educators urging students to weigh their options carefully before deciding to turn their computer into a classroom.

"Most people, if given the choice, would still prefer a traditional university," said Glen Jones, an expert in higher education policy at the Ontario Institute for Education Studies in Toronto.

Jones said sometimes distance from a school, the necessity of full-time jobs and family obligations make going to university impossible. For these reasons, getting a degree online might be an attractive alternative.

But there are also drawbacks.

Sometimes the cost of clicking a mouse can be just as high as attending a university.

Then there's the lack of companionship that can sometimes make e-learning an isolating experience. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Virtual school

- Ontario hasn't yet provided details on how its proposed Ontario Online Institute will work, saying only that the virtual school will offer e-courses from several universities as the province tries to produce a more educated workforce.

Fake game show meant to jolt French viewers

TELEVISION A France state-run TV channel is stirring controversy with a documentary about a fake game show in which credulous participants obey orders to deliver increasingly powerful electric shocks to a man, who is really an actor, until he appears to die.

The producers of The Game of Death, broadcast last night, wanted to examine both what they call TV's mind-numbing power to suspend morality, and the striking human willingness to obey orders.

"Television is a power. We know it, but it's theoretical," producer Christophe Nick told the daily Le Parisien. "I wondered: Is it so important that it can turn us into potential executioners?"

In the end, more than four in five "players" gave the maximum jolt. "People never would have obeyed if they didn't have trust," Nick said in yesterday's Le Parisien. "They told themselves, 'TV knows what it's doing.'" THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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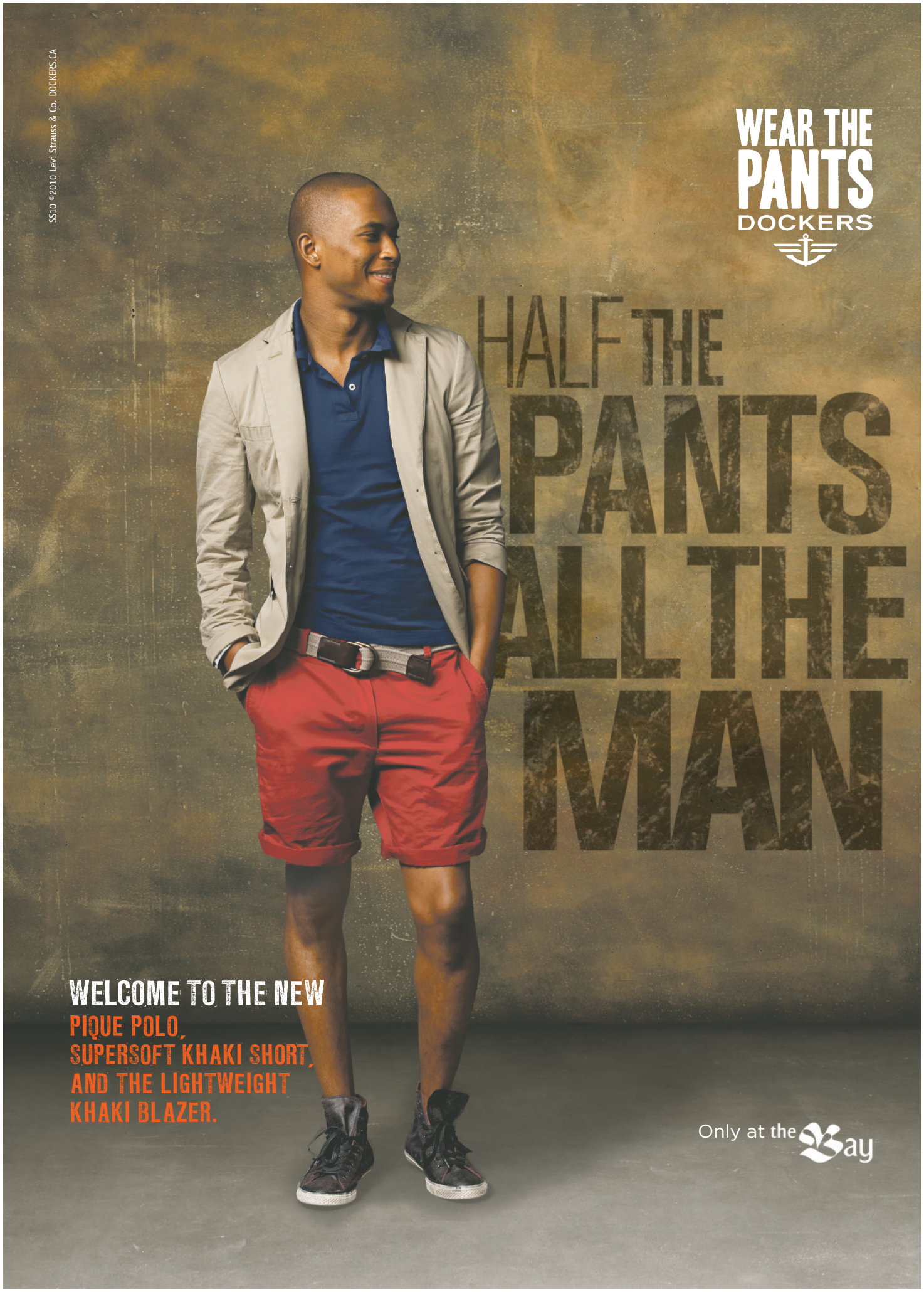
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Local

$2.5M doda bust in Peel

Police in Peel Region have seized more than $2.5 million worth of an illegal drug called doda. The drug is made by grinding dried opium poppy pods and brewing the resulting powder into a herbal tea. Police say it has similar, but milder, effects as other opiates such as morphine and heroin, but is just as addictive. The seizure was made during searches conducted Monday at homes in Toronto and Brampton and at a Mississauga storage facility. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Woman robbed on deathbed: Cops

CRIME Toronto police say two robbers stole an unconscious elderly woman's jewelry just moments before she died at a Toronto hospital.

According to police, two men entered the Toronto East General Hospital yesterday around 8 p.m. and began going floor to floor.

The robbers then made off with the jewelry of the woman in her 70s who was in the palliative care unit.

Police say the family had just left the woman's bedside vigil to get some coffee when the robbers struck. They alerted police when the family returned and noticed some misplaced items. By the time the police arrived, the victim had died.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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ANDREW WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Environment Canada is forecasting a warmer and drier than normal summer for GTA.

Hot, dry summer coming

Environment Canada predicting better season this year

After last summer's rain and cool temperatures, Toronto residents can look forward to a more traditional, "warmer and drier" summer, according to Environment Canada.

The season, which the weather service defines as June, July and August, will feature more days where temperatures hover above 30 C, more hours of sunshine and less rain than last year, according to climatologist David Phillips.

Officially, Environment Canada doesn't release its summer forecast until June 1, but provisional models are currently being developed with the help of the weather service's supercomputer.

And so far it's all roses, assuming you love the heat.

"Initially, it looks like it will be drier than normal and warmer than normal," said Phillips.

But those warmer and drier temperatures will also come with problems, Phillips said. The soaring temperatures and southerly winds may mean haze and smog, and that could translate into respiratory problems for those who have asthma or allergies or lung conditions.

The drier conditions could also be hard on crops, gardens, water levels and possibly lead to more forest fires, especially following the drought-like conditions of this winter with very little snow falling in the GTA.

This summer, Phillips is calling for plenty of days topping 30 C — more in line with 2007, when we had 27 of them, compared with three we had last summer.

There will also be more sunshine, Phillips said. Typically, Toronto gets 276 hours of sunshine in June, 302 hours in July and 264 in August. Those numbers were all down in 2009 thanks to all the rain, most dramatically in July, when we had almost 60 fewer hours of sun. This summer, Phillips said the models are now calling for more sunshine than normal.

Phillips cautioned that things could change by June 1 when the official summer forecast is unveiled. Until then, he's not going to bet his pension on the forecast.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TTC ponders fate of driver who lost licence

Toronto transit officials are still pondering the fate of a driver who lost her driver's licence for three days following a roadside breath test. Some reports suggest a decision on whether to fire the unidentified driver will be made today.

But Toronto Transit Commission spokesman Kevin Carrington says there's no timetable for a decision.

The driver, believed to be in her 40s, was behind the wheel of a bus last Friday when police were alerted to her erratic driving.

Police have said the driver was not legally impaired, but had enough alcohol in her system to warrant the three-day licence suspension.

Carrington adds that because this is an internal TTC investigation, any decision regarding the driver's job status will not be made public.

Last Friday's incident follows a series of embarrassments for the transit commission, including photos of workers sleeping on the job and Commissioner Adam Giambrone abandoning his mayoralty campaign due to a sex scandal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TTC blitz

- The TTC has launched a public-relations blitz to improve relations with commuters, with consultations being held to give transit users a chance to complain about the service.

Tomorrow's Metro

Urban Compass

John Sewell brings Metro readers the issues that are affecting Torontonians

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video As the loonie chases down the U.S. dollar, many experts think parity will be here for the long haul at **metronews.ca/canada**

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News in brief

SENTENCE A man from Ajax has received a 17-year sentence for a string of five home invasions in the Toronto area in 2006. Kevin Harris, 30, had pleaded guilty to four counts of armed robbery, three counts of wearing a disguise with intent, and three counts of forcible confinement. He was sentenced to 17 years in jail Tuesday, given a lifetime weapons prohibition and ordered to provide a DNA sample. Harris' pleas were tied to home invasions in Markham and Vaughan in March 2006 and an armed robbery on a Toronto street in April 2006.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Teen charged with stabbing teen

Toronto police have charged a 16-year-old girl in the stabbing of another teen at a March Break party early Tuesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Ministry of secrecy'

NDP, PCs call for Ministry of Correctional Services to open up

A culture of secrecy prevails at Ontario's Ministry of Correctional Services while conditions in the province's jails get worse for inmates and staff alike, the opposition parties charged yesterday.

Problems with overcrowding, inmates suffering from mental health issues, and drug and alcohol abuse have all been on the increase, but the ministry remains reluctant to explain its decisions or policies, complained the Progressive Conservatives and New Democrats.

"This is the ministry of secrecy," said Opposition corrections critic Garfield Dunlop.

New Democrat France Gelinas said "it is like pulling teeth to try to get any information" out of the correctional services ministry.

"There's a culture of secrecy, a culture of machismo, that is associated with the correctional services that is so detrimental at multiple levels." France Gelinas, NDP MPP

"There's a culture of secrecy, a culture of machismo, that is associated with the correctional services that is so detrimental at multiple levels," said Gelinas.

"It prevents us from identifying the problems clearly, prevents us from moving on with innovative ideas that would help."

There are about 8,800 inmates, including about 600 women, in Ontario's 31 jails, correctional and detention centres, but 80 per cent serve sentences of three months or less, and half serve only one month or less.

There has been a huge shift in the inmate populations, with 70 per cent on remand instead of being sentenced offenders. That's a 180 degree change in 10 years, and the trend is expected to intensify.

A report entitled the Changing Face of Corrections was given to federal and provincial justice ministers over a year ago, but still hasn't been released to the public.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Weather **Great day for green beer**

COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sunny weather and high temperatures led people to celebrate St. Patrick's Day outside yesterday. People across the GTA took advantage of the weather to down a few green pints on a patio, like these at Quigley's in the Beach, or to go for a walk, a bike ride or rollerblading.

More coverage, page 16

Thompson would add 58 km to subway lines if elected mayor

POLITICS In her first major announcement as a mayoral hopeful, Sarah Thomson revealed details of her $14-billion plan to expand the city's subway.

If elected, Thomson says, she would add 58 kilometres of track, expanding the lines west to the airport, east through Scarborough and north to York University. (The last is already in the works.)

To pay for the ambitious project, Thomson said she would implement road tolls for the city's two highways.

"We could generate between $400 million and $500 million per year on the Gardiner and Don Valley Parkway with a $5 toll." Sarah Thompson, mayoral candidate

"We could generate between $400 million and $500 million per year on the Gardiner and Don Valley Parkway with a $5 toll," she told a small group of reporters at a news conference yesterday morning, staged in front of the Wellesley subway station.

The tolls, she continued, would come with a sunset clause of 10 years.

Additional funds would be raised through private partnerships and redirecting funds currently allocated to expand the LRT system. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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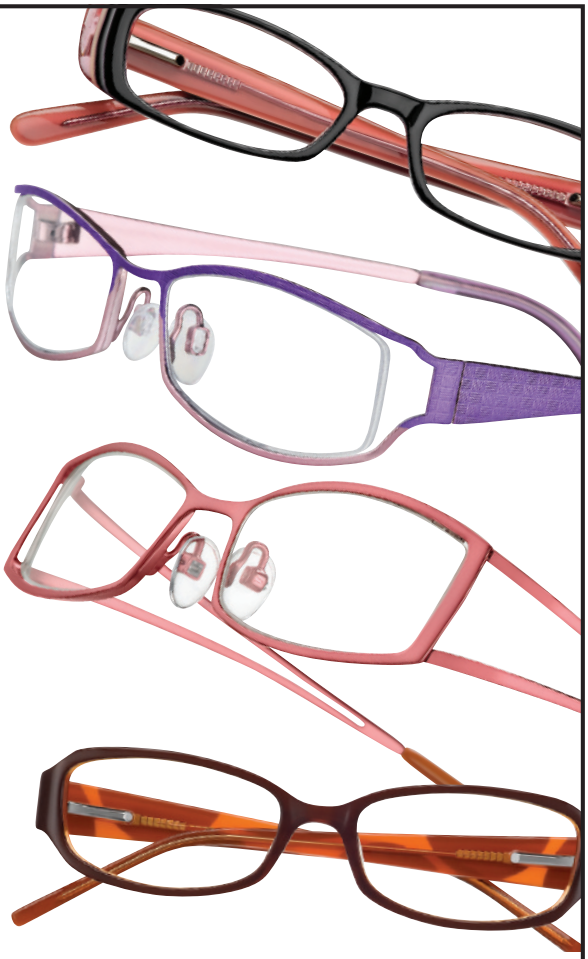

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the Bay OPTICAL

Woman dies after snowboarding accident

A 48-year-old Mississauga woman died yesterday after hitting a tree while snowboarding near Markdale. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tasers reloaded

Ontario to unveil new stun gun guidelines

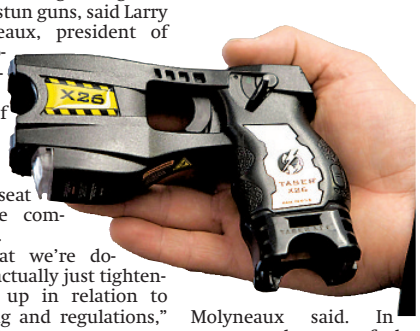
Ontario is poised to revamp its guidelines on the use of stun guns by police, The Canadian Press has learned.

The changes are expected to be made public March 30, sources say, about two years after the governing Liberals launched a review of Taser use in the province.

Currently, only tactical officers and supervisors are allowed to carry Tasers in Ontario, but the government is being urged to make them available to all front-line police officers.

It's among the recommendations made by the police standards advisory committee, a group of representatives from police groups and municipalities within the ministry tasked with providing advice to the government about the use of stun guns.

Ontario is already considered to be a Canadian leader in regulating the use of stun guns, said Larry Molyneaux, president of the Police Association of Ontario, which has a seat on the committee.



"What we're doing is actually just tightening it up in relation to training and regulations," he said.

Police organizations have long advocated for all uniformed police officers to be allowed to carry stun guns — otherwise known as conductive energy weapons — arguing they're less lethal than guns and will save lives.

Uniformed police, rather than supervisors or tactical officers, are usually the first on the scene, Molyneaux said. In some rural areas of the province, it can take up to an hour to respond to a call.

Tasers have become an increasingly common tool for police across Canada, leading some critics to question whether the rules governing their use are adequate.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Radiation centre opens in Newmarket

Up to 1,500 cancer patients in York Region and southern Simcoe County will be spared daily three-hour treks to downtown Toronto thanks to the opening of a new radiation therapy centre in Newmarket.

The radiation facility, part of the new Stronach Regional Cancer Centre at the Southlake Regional Health Centre, officially opened yesterday. It's part of the hospital's $110-million cancer program.

"I'm so grateful not to have to travel downtown everyday for treatment, especially while not feeling well and having little energy," Newmarket resident and breast cancer patient Kelly Reevie told a news conference.

The centre's first patient, Reevie began her daily radiation treatments Monday and has 17 days to go. The convenience of having the facility close to home means she can continue her home-based work as a medical assistant, something she says she wouldn't otherwise be able to do.

The radiation therapy centre has three units. Over the next three years, an additional three will be added, allowing the centre to treat more than 2,400 patients annually.

CARLOS OSARIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Radiation therapist Edwin Chan, left, Rachel Woo, lying down, and Natalie DiTommaso demonstrate the linear accelerator yesterday at the Stronach Regional Cancer Centre at the Southlake Regional Health Centre.

Improving access to care through the development of regional programs throughout the province is a goal of Cancer Care Ontario. The Newmarket centre is the 14th radiation therapy facility to open in the province.

In the last four years, cancer centres have also opened in Peel and Durham and have been expanded in Hamilton and Ottawa. New centres are scheduled to open in the next two years in Barrie, Niagara and Sault Ste. Marie.

"It's the largest expansion of cancer services in such a short time in the province's history," said Terry Sullivan, president of Cancer Care Ontario.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

LAWSUIT A recruiting firm that worked with eHealth is suing the scandal-plagued corporation for $249,000. Egon Zehnder signed a deal in December 2008 to help eHealth hire 15 senior executives and billed the agency for nearly $1.1 million. The firm charged between $72,000 to $86,000 for each job candidate, and billed eHealth even if the candidate was not hired. According to the company's statement of claim, only five of those jobs were filled, and eHealth paid only $845,000. The eHealth scandal rocked the Liberals this past summer, after it was revealed that $1 billion was spent to develop electronic health records with very little to show for it.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Former Whitby mayor Attersley dead at 76

Robert Attersley served as Whitby's mayor from 1980 to 1991, but he was many things to many people: Hometown hero, family man, business leader, politician, eternal optimist. In turn, he was arguably the city's biggest fan. He died Friday at Ajax-Pickering hospital after a brief illness. He was 76. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Puck scores Hall of Fame spot

Flashbulbs popped and children cheered as retired NHL star Ron Ellis cradled it in his hands, which were sheathed in white gloves to prevent fingerprints from being left on what is likely the most adored six-ounce piece of rubber that has ever been welcomed into the Hockey Hall of Fame.

After passing through a series of hands on more than one continent, the puck Sidney Crosby fired to win gold for the Canadian men's hockey team at the Vancouver Olympics reached its new home in Toronto.

Ellis, the director of public relations at the Hall of Fame, placed it on display yesterday.

"Now this little puck," he told a crowd of dozens, "it's causing quite a fuss."

It was retrieved by a Finnish linesman after Crosby scored in overtime against the U.S., securing a 3-2 Canada win. The linesman kept it, but ultimately gave it back to the Swiss-based International Ice Hockey Federation.

Officials announced earlier this week that it would be handed over to the Hall.

"We understand that this is being donated to the Hockey Hall of Fame," Ellis said.

"Our legal department will be putting together the proper paperwork that's involved in that."

The puck was placed in an enclosure down the stairs from where the Stanley Cup makes its home. It will share a display case with a pair of socks worn by Canadian forward Dany Heatley, gloves worn by defenceman Drew Doughty and an assortment of similar souvenirs.

Dozens of fans crowded with television cameras at the unveiling, including Arvin Prasad and his young family. Prasad's two sons, aged 10 and 7, were among the first to get a close-up view.

"For them, it's not just about hockey, it's about a real strong sense of nationalism inspired by that goal," Prasad said.

"That, in itself, is great for the future generations." THE CANADIAN PRESS

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ron Ellis, the director of public relations at the Hockey Hall of Fame, holds the puck yesterday that was used when Sidney Crosby scored the winning goal in the Vancouver 2010 Olympic hockey final.

Women coming forward after doctor charged with sex assault

CHARGES There have been more calls to police since a Toronto doctor was charged with sexually assaulting three female patients.

Det.-Const. Julie Stehlik says calls have been coming in all week after concerned women were asked to come forward following the arrest of Dr. George Doodnaught last week. He's alleged to have sexually assaulted three patients while they were under anesthetic.

While she couldn't provide details, Stehlik said there have been "numerous phone calls" from people that will have to be interviewed.

She says the investigation is very much "active and ongoing," but adds it's too early to say when police will provide an update on the case as there is still much more work to be done.

None of the allegations have been proven in court. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Time frame

- The attacks are alleged to have happened during surgical procedures at North York General Hospital between August 2007 and last month.

News in brief

TRANSIT While the Ontario government is investing billions in public transit, hundreds of York Region riders are accusing GO Transit of driving them back into their cars by cancelling two Newmarket bus routes. Citing low ridership and the need to integrate with York Region's regular service and Viva express buses, GO will discontinue the 92B bus to York Mills April 5, and the Newmarket-York University bus April 26. The move makes commutes longer and more expensive, said more than 200 GO riders who attended a meeting Tuesday with GO and York Region officials. Many riders said they would rather drive than use York Region Transit buses, which they say are slower and more expensive. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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N.B. budget passes legislature vote

New Brunswick's $8-billion budget for 2010-11 has passed in the provincial legislature. The governing Liberals used their majority to pass the spending package by a vote of 29-19. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Alberta to fight oilsands 'propaganda'

The Alberta government will be rolling out initiatives over the next few weeks to combat "propaganda campaigns" against the oilsands. Energy Minister Ron Liepert, left, says both the province and the oil and gas industry are under attack from well-funded international groups. Liepert says in text of a speech to the Calgary Chamber of Commerce that those groups paint Alberta as uncaring of the environment during a time of "international environmental correctness." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec **Chart attack**

JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Action Démocratique du Québec Leader Gerard Deltell holds up a copy of the organization chart of the Health Ministry during question period yesterday at the Quebec legislature.

Low marks for oilsands

Room for green improvement, report says

A report says the Alberta government isn't doing enough to ensure underground oilsands miners use the most environmentally friendly practices.

"Industry and government aren't doing everything they can to mitigate environmental impact," said Simon Dyer, one of the authors of the study released yesterday by the Pembina Institute.

The environmental think-tank is the first to examine projects that recover bitumen through deep underground wells. It found a wide range of environmental performance between different companies.

The study also suggests in-situ sites aren't necessarily cleaner than large open-pit mines usually associated with the oilsands.

In-situ projects, on average, emit more than twice as much carbon dioxide as open-pit mines. They also release more acid-rain-causing gases such as sulphur and nitrous dioxides. And when the impact of the natural gas they use is considered, in-situ projects disturb almost as much land.

The institute reviewed 2007 data to examine nine different in-situ projects in both commercial production and pilot stages, and used 17 different environmental criteria.

It asked if a project's environmental management was accredited by a third party. It asked for emissions per barrel of oil produced. It asked how much water was used per barrel and whether the company was a member of any environmental monitoring organizations.

The responses were compiled and graded. The results varied from 25 per cent for Canadian Natural Resources Ltd.'s Primrose/Wolf Lake project to 60 per cent for Suncor's Firebag project. The average grade was 44 per cent. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Benefit

- The report concludes that if all companies were obliged to adopt best practices already used by some, greenhouse gases would be reduced by the equivalent of taking 750,000 cars off the road.

News in brief

INVESTIGATION The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario is investigating at least one more Belleville bar for allegedly serving alcohol to an underage murder suspect. Lisa Murray of the AGCO says the agency has received information Dean Brown, 18, may have been drinking at The Cabaret last Thursday night, and another as-yet unidentified establishment. Brown is charged with first-degree murder in the deaths of 46-year-old Tracy Hannah and 14-year-old Whitney Hannah of Mountain View. THE CANADIAN PRESS

RCMP documents put Rene Levesque in "suspected Communist" club.

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STOP HAIR LOSS

BIO-FEN PLUS™ is a natural health product used in the treatment of hereditary androgenic alopecia *(AGA)* in adults ***(male or female pattern baldness.)*** It contains scientifically calculated proportions of extracts of fenugreek seeds, saw palmetto berries and flax lignans. Each are known to possess an inhibitor of the enzyme responsible for causing male or female pattern baldness. It also contains a mixture of B vitamins, folate and biotin to help metabolize these herbal extracts so that they are more bio-available, and to support the growth of strong and healthy hair.

What causes hereditary hair loss?

Each hair grows from a pocket in the skin called the hair follicle. During its growing phase, the follicle has a bulb-shaped bottom, the center of which is called the dermal papilla. The papilla is fed by very small blood vessels, which bring it food & oxygen and remove wastes. The papilla is highly sensitive to hormones and chemicals secreted by the body *(or ingested as a medicine)* which impacts hair growth.

It is believed that some individuals have a genetic predisposition to a receding hairline *(most common in men)* or hair/follicle thinning over larger areas of scalp *(more common in women)*. These conditions result from hormonal changes caused by an enzyme in the dermal papilla called 5-alpha-reductase. This enzyme breaks down the hormone testosterone into dihydrotestosterone *(DHT)*.

Over a period of time, an over abundance of DHT causes the hair follicle to degrade and shortens the active phase of the hair, eventually leading to thinner hair and eventual hair loss.

How does BIO-FEN PLUS™ *work?*

Specific compounds within the herbal extracts inhibit the 5-alpha-reductase *(and therefore reduce DHT)* to prevent or slow down the rate of hair loss. This process is the principle by which the prescription drugs such as Propecia *(finasteride)* work. However, BIO-FEN PLUS™ also contains additional compounds which remove excess cholesterol and testosterone – the building blocks of DHT.

BIO-FEN PLUS™ also contains vitamins to increase blood flow to the small capillaries that feed the hair roots, to deliver the active herbal compounds and remove waste. **Therefore, BIO-FEN PLUS™ provides a natural, safer alternative to expensive drugs, and/or expensive & painful hair transplants.** As with the prescription alternatives, results vary from person to person, and no one product will work for everyone.

How long must I use BIO-FEN PLUS™ *?*

BIO-FEN PLUS™ capsules are usually effective at stopping hair loss within the first two months. However, since healthy hair grows only about 1 cm each month, it may take up to three months before you notice that hair growth is increased or further hair loss is stopped.

Anyone experiencing new growth will see it within four to six months. Once results become apparent, some users are able to reduce their BIO-FEN PLUS™ supplement dose to one capsule every second or every third day. Some clients will continue to take BIO-FEN PLUS™ daily. Once you stop completely, however, your hair growth pattern will slowly go back to the point where you started.

How safe is BIO-FEN PLUS™ *?*

The ingredient combination in BIO-FEN PLUS™ is generally safe for most adults. However, the following cautions are advised:

Folic acid: Consult a health care practitioner if you are uncertain whether or not you are taking adequate vitamin B12, as folate supplementation can mask a Vitamin B12 deficiency.

Vitamin B3: Consult a health care practitioner prior to use if you have impaired liver function.

Vitamin B6: Consult a health care practitioner prior to use if you are taking levodopa.

What is the quality of BIO-FEN PLUS™ *?*

BIO-FEN PLUS™ is manufactured in Canada according to a quality assurance program called Good Manufacturing Practices *(GMP)*. This ensures that the ingredients are tested for their level of quality, potency & purity, prior to production and again prior to sale.

See our website to locate your nearest Health Food Store or Pharmacy that offers BIO-FEN PLUS™ and other quality products from Hair Grow Technology. If you have any questions or comments about our products that target hair loss and support the growth of strong, healthy hair, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Each BIO-FEN PLUS™ *capsule contains (mg/capsule):*

Fenugreek *(Trigonella feonum graecum)* seed extract 4:1	260 mg
Saw palmetto berry extract contains 45% powder, esters & sterols	160 mg
Flax lignans, standardized to 20% secoisolariciresinol diglucoside *(SDG)*	100 mg
D-calcium pantothenate *(Vitamin B5)*	10.40 mg
Niacinamide *(Vitamin B3)*	10.25 mg
Pyridoxine HCl *(Vitamin B6)*	2.00 mg
Riboflavin *(Vitamin B2)*	1.58 mg
Folic acid	0.095 mg
Biotin	400 mcg

Non-medicinal ingredients: inert microcrystalline cellulose and vegetable-based magnesium stearate in a veggie-based capsule.

Recommended adult dose: . . . . . .one capsule per day

BIO-FEN PLUS

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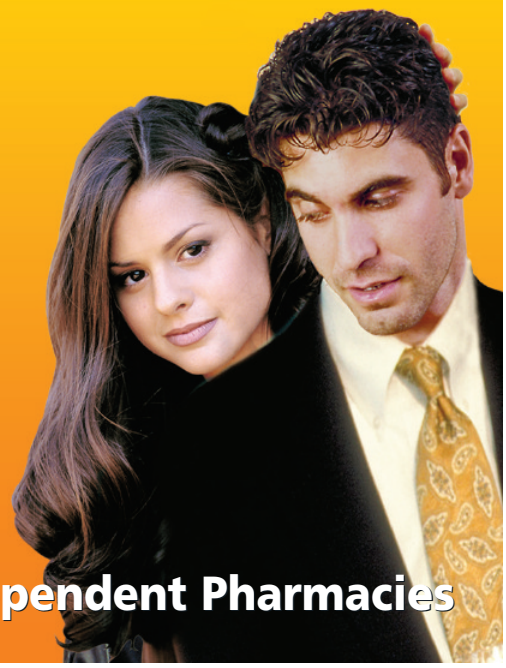

Available at Health Food stores and Independent Pharmacies

Quebec man facing child pornography charges released

Jean-Louis Bertrand, who faces criminal charges for allegedly possessing and distributing child pornography, was released yesterday after spending a night in jail, but he can't use a computer, be around minors, or leave Canada. THE CANADIAN PRESS

RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sophie Brochu, CEO of Gaz Metro, addresses shareholders yesterday at the company's annual meeting in Montreal.

Quebec firm to become alternative energy leader

MONTREAL Gaz Metro, Quebec's main natural gas distributor, will continue its focus on clean energy projects like fuelling transport trucks travelling between Ontario and Quebec, in order to increase its growth, CEO Sophie Brochu said yesterday.

The company wants to expand beyond simply supplying fuel, to become a leader in alternative energy and contribute to a cleaner environment, Brochu said, adding that expansion of the company's LNG business can significantly reduce emissions from trucks currently running on diesel fuel

"It is an existing and applicable solution for reducing the environmental footprint of this activity," she announced at an annual shareholders meeting.

She also said Gaz Metro is planning on building terminals to provide liquefied natural gas for trucks that convert to this energy. She also said the trust will convert to a corporation Sept 30. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fight between MPs brewing

Liberals and Conservatives clash on mass mailing issue

Another fight is brewing over the supremacy of Parliament — a war this time being waged over those lowly one-page partisan mail-outs that tend to wind up in household recycling bins.

A majority of MPs in the House of Commons voted this week to ban mass mailings of "10-per-centers" outside their own ridings, directing the Board of Internal Economy, which controls internal Commons affairs, to "end immediately the wasteful practice."

At issue

- Liberals proposed banning partisan mass mailings outside their own riding, calling it "wasteful" and saying it will save Canadians $10 million annually.
- Conservatives call the motion "non-binding" and the Prime Minister's Office says it will continue the program.

But the Conservative government says it considers the motion "non-binding" and — notwithstanding a clever rhetorical response from Stephen Harper — the Prime Minister's Office says it "will continue to use the program to communicate with Canadians."

That prompted a blistering reproach from NDP Leader Jack Layton, whose party used its opposition day motion yesterday to push for new rules curtailing the prime minister's power to prorogue parliament for longer than a week at a time.

"Mr. Harper's approach is sort of like a king," fumed Layton. "He likes to ignore the motions of the House of Commons when it suits his convenience."

He pointed out that Harper, while in opposition, used to say government had a "moral obligation" to abide by motions passed by the Commons. Harper now routinely ignores them, including a motion to produce documents related to the Afghan detainee controversy. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hamilton police cleared of wrongdoing

PROBE Two Hamilton police officers have been cleared of wrongdoing in the death of a man who fell from an apartment balcony.

The provinces Special Investigations Unit says police had gone to the apartment of Kenneth Lyon, 32, last month with a warrant to search for child pornography.

The man broke free and ended up falling over the eight-floor balcony railing, landing on a truck below. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

The SIU said there's no reason to believe the two officers committed any criminal offence and has closed the case.

There were three officers in the apartment but the SIU says it investigated the two who had the most interaction with Lyon.

The agency investigates incidents involving police where there has been death, serious injury or allegations of sexual assault. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

MARITIMES The Newfoundland and Labrador government is launching what it calls the first comprehensive review of the province's mining industry since the 1970s. The government says the aim is to develop a strategy that puts the province in a position to attract investment in the industry. THE CANADIAN PRESS

No purchase necessary. Canadian residents eligible to enter. To enter, log onto www.lindtgoldbunny.ca and correctly answer the questions about the location of the GOLD BUNNY statue. For each of the 20 questions you correctly answer, you will receive one entry into the contest. Contest is from March 1 to April 4, 2010. Chances of winning depend on number of eligible entries. Mathematical skill-testing question required. For full Contest rules, including other ways to enter, see www.lindtgoldbunny.ca.

Quagmire ice roads prompt call for help

Some northern First Nations have declared a state of emergency and are looking to the federal government for help after mild weather turned their frozen winter roads into mucky quagmires.

"It doesn't look good at all. We're in for really tough times."
Grand Chief David Harper

Grand Chief David Harper, who represents northern First Nations in Manitoba, said the Shamattawa and Red Sucker Lake reserves have made declarations while stockpiles of fuel and food in more than 20 other communities are dwindling. Only about one-quarter of the supply orders placed by his communities have been filled, he said.

"It doesn't look good at all. We're in for really tough times."

A state of emergency doesn't entitle a community to any automatic federal funding, but rather sends up a red flag to warn of trouble, Harper said.

Mild weather shut the roads down after just under a month, cutting off more than 30,000 people from the south. Normally the road system, which sees temporary routes created over frozen swamps, muskeg and even lakes, is open for up to eight weeks.

The roads are the northern communities' only chance of bringing in supplies at a reasonable cost. Otherwise, goods have to be flown in.

The desperate need for supplies has prompted many to take their chances on the rapidly deteriorating roads, Harper said, with some truckers getting stranded in the muck.

"According to the elders, it's very dangerous," Harper said.

"They recommended no more travelling. But do they listen? No they don't. It's a lifeline. They're trying to mobilize as much as they can."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages James Moore responds to a question during Question Period in the House of Commons on Parliament Hill yesterday.

Tories battle NDP's MP3 levy

POLITICS Conservatives are Canada's new iPod freedom fighters.

Cabinet ministers and MPs are putting up a vigorous defence against the NDP's move to have a levy applied to all new MP3 players, hard drives and laptops.

The money would theoretically go into a fund for Canadian music artists the same way as the current 29-cent levy on blank CDs and cassettes.

The proposal is New Democrat MP Charlie Angus' private member's bill. It's unclear whether such a tax measure would go far because legislation that involves financial changes must be supported by the government.

So far, it has the full support of only the Bloc Québécois, not enough to pass the House of Commons. The Liberals, and at least one Conservative, agreed to continue discussion of the issue in committee.

But that hasn't stopped the Tories from mounting a full-on assault against the idea.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Scale will rate avalanche danger

Federal Environment Minister Jim Prentice says Parks Canada has developed an avalanche warning scale that will be used across North America starting next winter. Prentice says the five-level danger scale will help people make better choices when entering the backcountry. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Soldiers enjoy potshots: Study

Results of random testing

Marijuana is the illegal drug of choice in the Canadian Forces, according to the first random tests of the entire military.

Almost one in 20 Forces members — 4.7 per cent — "recently" used illicit drugs, says the newly released study based on random urine samples.

And the vast majority were using some form of cannabis, with cocaine, morphine and codeine far behind.

The survey results are based on 1,327 mandatory urine samples taken randomly, without prior notice, among all three services and across the country.

Previous illicit-drug surveys in the Canadian Forces had concentrated on smaller populations in one of the branches, or among key military professionals such as submariners or divers.

But to establish a broad baseline, the Canadian Forces carried out its widest survey yet, between Feb. 2 and April 6, 2009.

The samples were "blind" in that the identity of the individual tested was not recorded, and therefore no sanctions could be applied to anyone testing positive.

The military has previously estimated usage in its ranks at about four per cent, and mandatory tests imposed in 2006 on soldiers headed to Afghanistan have helped hold levels in check. The Canadian Forces have a zero-tolerance policy for illicit drugs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Marijuana

- In Canada, some surveys have found up to 12 per cent of the general population acknowledging use of illicit drugs, with marijuana by far the most popular.

Weather Spring's in their steps

THE CANADIAN PRESS/SEAN KILPATRICK

Joggers make their way through Majors Hill Park in downtown Ottawa yesterday in view of Parliament Hill. Spring-like weather brought temperatures of 16 C to the nation's capital.

Car accident is international

BORDER A Quebec man is facing charges he hit an abutment in front of a U.S. Customs house on a Vermont street that straddles the border between the two countries — the south side in Vermont and the north side in Quebec. Vermont State Police say they were called to the Customs station in Derby at 2:16 a.m. on March 13 after a car hit a concrete traffic barrier and a car outside the Customs House.

Eric Rousseau, 29, of Sherbrooke, Que., was charged by Vermont police with driving under the influence of alcohol.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada, Russia trade claims over Arctic

TENSIONS Another Canada-Russia showdown over untapped Arctic resources is looming later this month at a sleepy retreat near Ottawa.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said yesterday his country will aggressively pursue its interests in the Arctic.

In a direct response, Canada said it would reassert its sovereignty over the Far North at what is shaping up to be a controversial five-country Arctic summit it is hosting in two weeks in Chelsea, Que., outside Ottawa.

Fresh tensions between Ottawa and Moscow emerged yesterday after Medvedev told a session of his Security Council that Russia must be prepared to defend its claims to Arctic mineral riches. The Russian president predicted climate change will spark further conflicts as ice melts, exposing new areas for exploration.

Foreign Minister Lawrence Cannon's office responded swiftly. "Canada's sovereignty over lands, islands and waters of the Canadian Arctic is long-standing, well-established and based on historical title," spokeswoman Catherine Loubier said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Saskatchewan NDP wants spy records on Tommy Douglas
The Saskatchewan NDP wants the federal government to fully disclose decades-old intelligence gathered on socialist icon and former premier Tommy Douglas. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Your cash, their decorations

Conservatives to spend more than $160K on furnishings for summits

The federal Conservative government is poised to spend $166,500 on a decorator for this year's G8 and G20 summits, even as it clamps down on spending in the face of a record deficit.

The Foreign Affairs Department has posted notice of a sole-source contract, saying it intends to hire Bruce Forster, a Vancouver interior designer who has decorated several of Canada's previous summits.

The government wants him to "develop a fine art strategy" for the two summits at the end of June. The G8 summit, at the Deerhurst Resort in Huntsville, will last a day and a half, followed by the G20 summit in Toronto, also a day and a half long. Forster is supposed to arrange for Canadian art, furnishings and decorations at the summit dinners and events.

He will manage a "floral team," arrange for artwork to be shipped back and forth under tight security, and put together a commemorative booklet for the collection. He will also be responsible for hiring a fine arts consultant.

"The organization of these summits offers an opportunity for Canada to profile its arts and culture to world leaders, heads of state and major international organizations," the Foreign Affairs notice says.

"This work must compliment (sic) the existing decor of the official sites of the summits while balancing Canadian and local artistry."

The $166,500-contract is expected to be confirmed tomorrow, unless someone comes forward and challenges Forster's abilities — unlikely given that the government justifies the sole sourcing by saying Forster is the only one capable of performing the contract. THE CANADIAN PRESS

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Stephen Harper responds to a question yesterday during question period in the House of Commons on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

News in brief

NEWFOUNDLAND Fresh from his own health crisis, Premier Danny Williams has waded into a dispute between pathologists and the Newfoundland and Labrador government. Williams says the doctors should be embarrassed by an external review that described "toxic" personality clashes in labs run by the pathologists. The head of laboratory medicine was forced to resign over testing errors in one of the province's largest biochemistry labs.

COURTS Robert Pickton is a self-confessed serial killer, rightly convicted in a court of law, and he would inevitably be found guilty at a new trial, says the Crown. In written arguments filed with the country's highest court, lawyers for the Crown say there was overwhelming evidence that Pickton, and only Pickton, was at the centre of an "inhuman" scheme to murder and dismember vulnerable women from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Basque separatists blamed for killing police officer

The Basque separatist group ETA was blamed yesterday for the shooting death of a French policeman outside Paris, as authorities interrogated one suspect and hunted for at least five other assailants who fled the scene. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Bombshell for dozens

Dozens of people were moved to safety from their homes in Moscow yesterday after workers uncovered more than 900 Second World War artillery shells beneath a road. The workers stumbled on the cache as they expanded the road in the Russian capital's western region. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World gets green light to party

The world turned a party-sized shade of green yesterday.

It was St. Patrick's Day, the annual celebration of all hues of Irishness.

• **In Dublin,** more than a half-million people lined a three-kilometre parade route. There were dancing troupes from Africa and India, bands from Austria and France, giant insect floats from Spain, and Dubliners dancing with mops and dusters.

The biggest laughs came for man-sized eggs with legs fighting bakers armed with wooden spoons.

• **In New York,** people lined Fifth Avenue a dozen deep for the world's oldest St. Paddy's parade.

Phil Giovanniello, a military police officer on leave from Iraq, smoked a cigar and took in the sea of green.

"This is my first parade," said Giovanniello. "And it feels great."

• **At the White House,** U.S. President Barack Obama met with Irish Prime Minister Brian Cowen.

Obama noted 36 million Americans claim Irish ancestry, adding: "I'm sure more do on St. Patrick's Day." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Surrender leads to police breakthrough in Berlin poker heist.

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JULIEN BEHAL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seeing the world through green-coloured glasses: Revellers were among half a million people who turned out in Dublin to watch the annual St. Patrick's Day parade.

News in brief

RELIGION A series of children's textbooks on Islam contains misleading and inflammatory rhetoric about the religion, inaccurately portraying its followers as inherently violent and deserving of suspicion, according to a Muslim civil liberties group. The Council on American-Islamic Relations began a campaign yesterday against the World of Islam books by Mason Crest Publishing. "Filled with incorrect information and deception, these books are contrary to the education mission of schools and libraries," Moein Khawaja, the chapter's civil rights director, said at a news conference.

JOHANNESBURG Police used rubber bullets to disperse a protest at a bail hearing for a hip-hop artist accused of killing children while drag racing. Molemo Maarohanye, known as Jub Jub, faces four murder charges and two charges of attempted murder in a case that has provoked massive public outcry. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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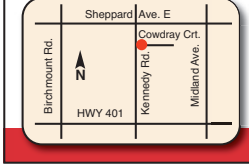

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Priest admits sexual abuse of children in Switzerland, Austria and Germany
An eastern Swiss diocese says a priest has resigned after admitting to sexually abusing children in the 1970s. It said the priest also acknowledged abuses in parts of neighbouring Austria and Germany that belong to the same diocese, and has reported himself to local police. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Abuse scandal challenge to society: Merkel

Germans impatient for Pope to respond to claims in homeland

Chancellor Angela Merkel called the Catholic Church's sex abuse scandal rocking the homeland of Pope Benedict XVI a major challenge to German society and warned the only way to come to terms with it was to "find out everything that has happened."

Merkel's comments to parliament yesterday came amid growing impatience from Germany's Roman Catholics for the pontiff to address the scandal in his homeland, where some 300 former Catholic students have come forward with claims of physical or sexual abuse.

During his weekly general audience in Rome, Benedict said he hopes his forthcoming letter to the Irish faithful concerning the sex scandal in the Irish church would help with "repentance, healing and renewal" there, but failed to make any mention of the issue in Germany.

Speaking in English, Benedict acknowledged the Irish church had been "severely shaken" as a result of the crisis, and said he was "deeply concerned."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Investigations

- While the German scandal is particularly sensitive, in scope and numbers the Irish crisis is much greater. There, three government-ordered investigations have documented a shocking catalogue of child abuse and church coverups from the 1930s to 1990s involving more than 15,000 children.

JAVIER GALEANO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A security agent grabs a member of the Ladies in White during a protest in Havana, yesterday.

Agents halt protesting Cuban women

HAVANA Uniformed Cuban security agents prevented the mothers and wives of dissidents from marching on the outskirts of the capital yesterday to demand release of their loved ones, shoving them into a bus when they lay down in the street in protest.

It was the second day in a row that a peaceful march by the Damas de Blanca, or Ladies in White, degenerated into a shouting match, raising tension a day ahead of the anniversary of a major crackdown on dissent.

The group is made up of female relatives of some of the 75 dissidents arrested in a sweeping government operation on or around March 18, 2003. Some 53 of the dissidents remain jailed, many of them sentenced to decades in jail.

As about 30 Ladies in White left a church, hundreds of pro-government supporters crowded around them, shouting "Long Live Fidel!" and "Get out, worms!" The women shouted back "Freedom!" and said they wanted to call the world's attention to the plight of their husbands.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Couple's steamy text lands them in Dubai jail

CLASH A string of steamy text messages has resulted in a jail sentence for an Indian couple, local media announced yesterday, in the latest case of passions clashing with the law in the cosmopolitan, yet occasionally conservative, Gulf city of Dubai.

The conviction said the sexual content of the texts suggested the unnamed pair planned to "commit sin" — a reference to an extramarital affair, which is illegal in the United Arab Emirates.

The pair each were sentenced to three months in jail, said authorities. The text messages surfaced in a divorce lawsuit by the woman's estranged husband. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

PRIUS Toyota and American traffic safety investigators checked a wrecked 2005 Prius in a New York City suburb to see if its event data recorder or the car would point to a problem with braking or acceleration after a driver hit a wall March 9.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Israel investigations 'inadequate:' UN

The UN's High Commissioner for Human Rights has criticized Israeli and Palestinian authorities for failing to properly investigate alleged war crimes last year in the Gaza Strip. Navi Pillay says Israel's investigations are "inadequate." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No basis for tuna ban, countries say

BLUEFIN Opposition grew yesterday against a proposal to ban the export of Atlantic bluefin tuna, with several Arab countries joining Japan in arguing it would hurt poor fishing nations and wasn't scientifically justified. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Arabs skeptical of U.S. tough talk toward Israel

MIDEAST Arabs across the Middle East are unconvinced the United States will stand up to Israel despite Washington's rare public outrage over plans to build new Jewish homes in a traditionally Arab part of Jerusalem.

The skepticism is eroding Arab hopes that U.S. President Barack Obama will push hard for a long-sought peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians to end a conflict that has fuelled anti-U.S. sentiment in the region. America's dwindling credibility could also jeopardize another major Mideast goal — uniting the Arab world against Iran.

Paul Salem, director of the Carnegie Middle East Center in Beirut, said Arab countries will be less likely to engage with the U.S. on issues such as Iran if they get nothing in return. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASSER ISHTAYEH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Palestinian youth throws rocks at Israeli soldiers yesterday during clashes in the West Bank village of Beita near Nablus. Israel lifted its tight restrictions on Palestinian access to Jerusalem's holiest shrine and called off an extended West Bank closure.

Israel lifts restrictions

West Bank closure called off

Israel lifted its tight restrictions on Palestinian access to Jerusalem's holiest shrine yesterday and called off an extended West Bank closure after days of clashes between Palestinians and Israeli security forces.

Despite moving to end the lockdown, Israel still kept thousands of police officers on alert as an uneasy calm settled over the holy city.

The recent violence has taken place against a backdrop of deep Palestinian frustration over a yearlong standstill in peace talks and dovetailed with the worst U.S.-Israeli diplomatic feud in decades.

While there were no reports of new clashes in Jerusalem, sporadic violence broke out yesterday in the West Bank. The most serious incident occurred in the northern city of Nablus, where dozens of Palestinian youths hurled rocks at Israeli security forces, some using slingshots and even a shovel to increase their range.

Israeli troops responded with tear gas and rubber bullets. Medics said two Palestinians were wounded.

Israel lifted restrictions on Palestinian access to Al-Aqsa, a day after the heaviest violence in months broke out across the city. The Israelis said the decision to end the lockdown was based on intelligence reports.

Israel also rescinded its closure of the West Bank that had prevented virtually all Palestinians there from crossing into Israel. Thousands of Palestinians enter Israel each day for work, medical care and other services.

The hilltop where Al-Aqsa stands is also Judaism's holiest site, the Temple Mount, where the biblical Jewish temples once stood. The conflicting claims to the compound make the future of the holy city the most charged issue in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. talks

- On Tuesday, the U.S. and Israel signalled they were trying to move beyond the crisis that erupted when Israel announced plans to build 1,600 apartments in disputed east Jerusalem during Vice-President Joe Biden's visit last week. Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke by phone Tuesday night, Israeli officials said.

News in brief

BIN LADEN The top NATO commander says U.S. troops would still try to capture Osama bin Laden alive and "bring him to justice" if the opportunity presented itself. The comment by Gen. Stanley McChrystal to reporters yesterday was in contrast to remarks made a day earlier by Attorney General Eric Holder. Holder told Congress the chances of capturing bin Laden alive were "infinitesimal" because he would probably be killed first by U.S. forces, or by his own fighters. When asked whether the U.S. had given up on capturing bin Laden alive, McChrystal said no. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Targeted liquid gets through airport security
Authorities say a liquid targeted for secondary scanning at Los Angeles International Airport was mistakenly allowed through security. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

12 more Christians massacred in Nigeria

Attackers killed 12 people yesterday morning in a small Christian village in central Nigeria, officials said, cutting out most of the victims' tongues in the latest violence in a region where religious fighting already has killed hundreds this year.

The attack almost mirrored the tactics used by those who carried out similar massacres in Christian villages last week when more than 200 people were slaughtered.

Under the cover of darkness and a driving rain, raiders with machetes entered the village of Byie early yesterday, setting fire to homes and firing gunshots into the air to drive frightened villagers into the night, witness Linus Vwi said.

"It was raining. They took that advantage," Vwi said.

Vwi said he and about 20 neighbours rushed into the surrounding wilderness, cowering in bushes as they listened to screams.

He said the attackers spoke Fulani, a language used mostly by Muslim cattle herders in the region. Officials and witnesses blamed Fulani herders for the killings last week.

Fulani community leader Sale Bayari denied that Fulanis took part in those killings, though he said the community suffered a similar massacre recently.

Six people were wounded in the overnight raid and taken to a local hospital, said Mark Lipdo, leader of a regional Christian non-profit group. He said attackers burned down 15 homes during the violence.

The dead included seven women, four children and one man, Lipdo said. Attackers removed the tongues of most of the victims, witnesses said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tongues

- It was unclear why attackers took the victims' tongues. In Nigeria, killers sometimes take body parts of their victims for black magic or "juju" rituals, later using them as charms.

Ukraine **FEMEN protests government**

EFREM LUKATSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police detain Inna Shevchenko, a member of women's activist group FEMEN, yesterday in front of the cabinet in Kiev, Ukraine. Dozens of activists of the human rights group protested against Ukraine's new all-male government, demanding posts for women.

Activists vow to continue Thai government protests

RED SHIRT Anti-government demonstrators vowed yesterday to extend their protest in the Thai capital indefinitely after taking their attention-grabbing tactic of throwing bottles of their own blood at the prime minister's home.

Leaders of the Red Shirt protesters, who want Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva to call new elections, said they would scale back the size of the demonstration they began Sunday in order to conserve energy and resources.

The decision to stay encamped in the Thai capital is meant to keep up the pressure on Abhisit, who already has rejected several of the protesters' deadlines to dissolve Parliament.

Red-shirted protesters hurled plastic bags filled with their own blood into Abhisit's residential compound yesterday, following similar protests the day before at his office and the headquarters of his Democrat Party.

The blood-spilling tactic — said to show the willingness of the common people to sacrifice themselves for their cause and their nation — grabbed attention, but put the Red Shirt movement no closer to its goal of forcing new elections.

More than 100,000 demonstrators converged on the capital Sunday, and organizers boasted they would topple the government within days. But the crowd shrunk yesterday to around 40,000, according to Maj. Gen. Vichai Sangparpai, a metropolitan police commander.

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Czech police bust passport forgery gang

Police say they have broken up an international gang suspected of producing forged Czech passports and supplying them to illegal immigrants and possibly crime groups. People suspected of using the forged documents have been arrested in Britain, Germany and Spain. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Human eggs raffle

U.S. clinic sparks debate in U.K. with promo

An American infertility clinic seeking business in Britain has prompted fierce criticism by offering free eggs from a U.S. woman to one participant in a promotional seminar yesterday in London.

The event has sparked a debate in Britain about the ethics of an event that many said violated the spirit, if not the letter, of a European Union law forbidding fertile women from being paid for their eggs.

It is not illegal for Europeans to pay for eggs overseas and for years infertile European women have travelled to the U.S. or other countries seeking eggs.

As part of a marketing push in the U.K., the Virginia-based Genetics and IVF Institute held a free seminar for about 100 British attendants last night, where one randomly chosen couple won a free donor egg treatment.

The clinic's prize is worth more than $10,000 — a $6,000 fee for the donor and $4,000 in medical costs associated with the hormone treatment and egg retrieval. Other U.S. clinics are known to pay women up to $35,000 for their eggs.

The Genetics and IVF Institute said it has been giving away eggs in similar promotions in the U.S. for more than a year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Donors

- Eggs donors in the U.K. cannot be compensated for more than £250 (about $385) per month for travel and time off work.

ALASTAIR GRANT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Louise Brown, front centre, with Alastair Macdonald, front, fourth left, the first in vitro fertilized female and male babies born, attend the 25th anniversary reunion at the Bourn Hall Clinic near Cambridge, England, in this July 2003 file photo

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Taliban using campaign of fear

FIGHT A month after losing control of their southern base in Marjah, the Taliban have begun to fight back, launching a campaign of assassination and intimidation to frighten people from supporting the U.S. and its Afghan allies.

At least one alleged government sympathizer has been beheaded. There are rumours that others have been killed. Marjah residents awake to letters posted on their doors warning against helping the troops.

Military commanders believe the Taliban campaign is achieving some success because of questions raised at town meetings: Do the U.S. forces want to shut down the mosques and ban prayer? Will they use lookout posts on their bases to ogle women?

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Public support essential

- Winning public support in the former Taliban stronghold of Marjah in Helmand province is considered essential to preventing insurgents from returning. U.S., Afghan and NATO troops captured the town in a three-week assault that began Feb. 13.

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Comment

There's no we in iPod

Relating

Steve Collins

metronews.ca/collins

After more than a half-century of worries, warnings and studies about what our media habits are doing to us and our relationships, FCC chairman Newton Minow's famous 1961 condemnation of the "vast wasteland" of network TV seems somehow quaint.

The TVs, computers and hand-held screens have since multiplied, enabling us to ignore each other any time and any place. Will we someday envy old-fashioned families who at least used to zone out in front of the same TV screen together, even as the Cassandras of the day prophesied looming social apocalypse?

The dire warnings, now a tradition unto themselves, continue. TV is making us dumb, lazy and distractible. This month's issue of the Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine draws a direct link between the amount of time kids spend in front of their screens and the difficulty they have relating to real people.

Other studies have pointed to bedroom TVs as a cancer on relationships, eliminating family meals and interaction and short-circuiting the sex lives of couples. The more we let the machines into our lives, we're told, the less room there is for people.

"The more we let the machines into our lives, we're told, the less room there is for people."

Many nights, the denizens of my own apartment (occupancy goes up and down) are firmly sealed in their own bubbles of laptop, iPod and TV, often in combination. Conversation is admittedly sporadic, but the teenagers, as far as I can see, have so far failed to completely degenerate into anti-social blobs.

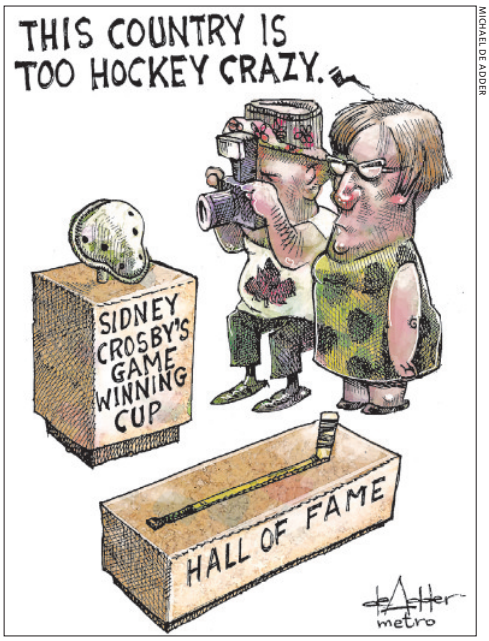
Paradoxically, even as they seem unaware of each others' presence in the same room, they are often interacting with each other online.

Just how much wholesome family interaction is enough? Sometimes at this age, shutting out one's family for a bit is an entirely desirable enterprise. I just had to do it with comparatively primitive technology like the Walkman. I wouldn't be surprised if bygone alarmists decried Gutenberg's printing press and the creeping effect of literacy on families, with kids' beaks buried in books and other signs of complete societal breakdown.

The grownups in our household, I have to admit, can easily be as plugged in and tuned out as the kids. Many nights when it's just the two of us, we'll notice that we've each been clicking away on our computers and haven't passed a word between us in a couple of hours. We'll often take this as our cue to pull the plug, go out for a drink, sit facing each other and actually talk.

The time to worry is when you shut off all the screens, turn back to each other and find you have nothing to say.

Steve Collins offers his best guesses on relationships for Metro every two weeks.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Prom wars: Out of the mouths of babes

FourthWave

Canice Leung

metronews.ca/fourthwave

By now you have probably heard about the Mississippi school that cancelled a prom rather than let Constance McMillen, a lesbian student, bring her girlfriend and wear a tuxedo. She asked permission to attend as a couple, but when the school board sent out a memo declaring all dates should be of the opposite sex, the American Civil Liberties Union stepped in and ... you can guess what happens next.

Lots of people, straight and gay, are outraged at the school's actions. I'll spare you all the protestation, since it goes without saying the school is in the wrong — oh, never mind, I'll tell you anyway: It cannot deny a couple their coming-of-age ritual because they're gay.

Though McMillen clearly understands the social significance of her fight — that's why she's suing, isn't it? — she also seems bored explaining the situation to camera crews, exasperated that trodding on gay rights still happens in the year 2010.

Young Americans collectively yawn at the mention — among the under-30 set, about 80 per cent believe same-sex marriage is a private decision — so for McMillen and her peers, it's silly trying to explain something that's accepted fact.

"For you to say that you can't bring someone of the same sex — well, for the gay people that means they can't bring their date," she told the Associated Press. "That's really not fair to the people that are gay." Like, duh.

Comments: torontoletters @metronews.ca or via twitter @metrotoronto

What a world, in which a teenager makes more sense of what "constitutional rights and liberties" are than the adults charged with teaching her these things. At its core, that's what high school is: A series of life lessons on how to be punctual, polite, committed, ambitious, thoughtful and critical adults.

That's why McMillen sought permission from her teachers, knowing what the outcome might be even before she asked. That's how adults deal with life, right? By talking through their differences and confronting tough situations rather than avoiding them, by, say, cancelling a prom like a socially-awkward teenager. Despite feeling guilty that she'd ruined everyone's year-end celebration, McMillen stoically returned to school, still proud of who she is.

She and her girlfriend are examples that courage and maturity can come at any age, and that students aren't the only ones who should learn a thing or two in high school. Like the saying goes, out of the mouths of babes ...

Canice Leung is a former editor of Ryerson University feminist magazine McClung's, copy editor at Metro, ardent feminist and loudmouth.

Worth mentioning

Cadets to take over some cop duties in Winnipeg

Winnipeg is moving ahead with a plan for police cadets to take over some duties from officers to free them up for more important work.

The province has agreed to share the cost of training about 50 cadets by next year. Those cadets are to replace constables guarding crime scenes or doing crowd control on Canada Day.

200

Winnipeg Mayor Sam Katz said the arrangement will put more officers on the street to fight crime. He hopes there will be as many as 200 cadets working down the road.

Police Chief Keith McCaskill says using cadets will take pressure off the strained police force.

"Cadets can do traffic duty," he said yesterday. "They can enforce provincial statutes. They can guard crime scenes ... they can look at guarding mental health patients. We have a lot of officers doing that, regularly taking them off the street."

The cadets will get about nine weeks of classroom training and seven weeks of training in the field. They won't carry guns but will be equipped with batons and pepper spray. They won't have full powers of arrest and will start at $12 per hour.

The cadet program had been in jeopardy as the city and province tussled over who should foot the bill. But Attorney General Andrew Swan said he's always liked the idea of training and using cadets.

Not only will they take pressure off uniformed officers, but the program could help recruit minorities who aren't as well-represented on the force, Swan suggested.

The city had estimated the cadet program could cost $1.7 million annually, but Swan said the final price tag hasn't been calculated yet. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Telus boosting its infrastructure in Alberta
Vancouver-based telecom company Telus Corp. said yesterday it will invest $650 million to increase both the speed and coverage areas for its current wireless and land-based services in Alberta this year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Barrick Gold says cave-in killed miners

MINING Barrick Gold Corp. has suspended activities at a mine in Tanzania after three workers were killed in a cave-in.

The world's biggest gold miner said the workers died when part of the Bulyanhulu mine collapsed Tuesday.

The company said it will keep the mine's operations shut down until today. Although operations will resume afterward, Barrick says the immediate area of the cave-in will remain closed throughout its investigation.

The Tanzanian mine is one of four involved in a spinoff of Barrick's African operations into a new publicly traded company that will be called African Barrick Gold and listed on the London Stock Exchange.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Johnson & Johnson CEO gets more compensation

MEL EVANS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Johnson & Johnson gave its chief executive officer, William Weldon, 61, an 11 per cent increase in compensation in 2009, to $25.5 million, according to Associated Press calculations, even though the health-care products giant cut thousands of jobs and saw its annual revenue decline for the first time since the Depression. In November, Johnson & Johnson announced plans to eliminate about 8,000 jobs globally. But the company's stock performed well last year, rising 7.7 per cent.

High loonie here to stay: Economists

Currency faces two tests

The loonie is again flying near parity with the U.S. greenback — but this time no one is surprised and most expect the currency to remain aloft for years.

The dollar continued its steady climb yesterday, at one point hitting 99.31 cents US — its highest level in 20 months — before closing just below the 99-cent level.

And unlike in late 2007 when the dollar briefly touched $1.10 US before falling back and then dropping below parity for good by July 2008, economists say the loonie isn't likely to be knocked off its perch so easily this time.

"We've taken to calling parity the new normal for the Canadian dollar."
David Watt, currency strategist

Royal Bank currency strategist David Watt believes the loonie will hover around parity for the next two or three years. "We've taken to calling parity the new normal for the Canadian dollar," he said.

The loonie has been mostly in ascendency since 2002, when it sunk as low as about 62 cents US.

The recent surge faces two tests in the next week, starting with tomorrow's inflation report, followed by Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney's speech to the Canadian Association for Business Economics next Wednesday.

Both promise to exert a downward draft on the currency — tomorrow's prices data is expected to show annual inflation dropped half a point to 1.4 per cent, which will give Carney the flexibility to reaffirm his pledge to keep the policy interest rate at the historic low until July.

But it won't much matter, says the TD Bank's deputy chief economist, Craig Alexander.

Fundamentals, rather than events, are filling the loonie's sails now, as opposed to 2007, when the currency overshot its rational level because of weakness in the U.S. dollar and sentiments that oil prices had no ceiling.

Today, the U.S. greenback is holding steady against most currencies and oil prices, while rising, are nowhere near the record $147 a barrel reached in 2008.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Business in brief

PUBLISHING Transcontinental Inc. swung to a profit in the first quarter despite lower revenues as it confirmed it will receive more than $100 million US in net proceeds from the sale of its U.S. direct mail business. The Montreal-based publisher and printer earned $27.9 million, reversing a year-ago $6.4-million loss after realizing the benefits of cost-cutting.

OILSANDS Petrobank Energy Ltd., creator of the Toe-To Heel Air Injection, or THAI, method of drawing bitumen out of the ground, says its profits doubled in the last three months of 2009 compared with a year earlier. Fourth-quarter net earnings were $57.1 million, or 56 cents per diluted share — compared with year-earlier profits of $28.1 million, or 34 cents per share.

HEALTH A subsidiary of Noveko International Inc. has signed an agreement to supply Montreal's Jewish General Hospital with antimicrobial filtration technology under a 30-month maintenance contract. The Montreal-based company said yesterday it will equip one of the hospital's pavilions with the filter. Both the delivery and upkeep will be managed by its Epurair Inc. division. Noveko develops respirators and air filters derived from its patented antimicrobial filtration technology. THE CANADIAN PRESS

World Bank forecasts China growth at 9.5%

ECONOMY The World Bank raised its China growth forecast this year to 9.5 per cent from nine per cent yesterday, but said Beijing needs to cool inflation and possible bubbles in real estate prices.

Premier Wen Jiabao warned Sunday that inflation will be a key challenge as the Chinese government tries to keep a recovery on track. Inflation rose to 2.7 per cent in February, near the government's official cap of three per cent for the year. Analysts expect Beijing to raise interest rates soon as it eases off its stimulus after growth rebounded to 10.7 per cent in the final quarter of 2009. But authorities say easy credit will continue because the global outlook is uncertain.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman walks by apartment buildings in Shanghai, China.

World Bank economist Louis Kuijs cited rapid rises in real estate prices and growing debt for the investment arms of local governments.

Washington and other trading partners are pressing Beijing to ease currency controls that have kept its yuan steady against the dollar for 18 months to help exporters compete amid weak global demand. Many analysts expect the government to gradually raise the yuan's value this year but to keep control over exchange rates.

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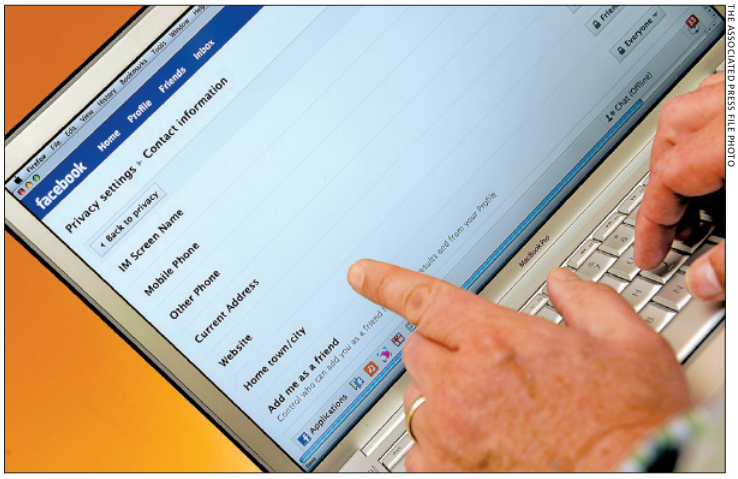
Renault, Nissan begin building cars in India
Renault and Nissan opened their first joint car factory in Chennai, India, yesterday. It will produce 400,000 vehicles a year by 2015. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Facebook is expected to add geotagging soon, following in the steps of sites like Twitter, Flickr and blog providers that enable users to include their location in whatever they post.

Geotagging raising concerns over privacy

Expert warns of broadcasting your location

As if knowing what your friend had for lunch wasn't enough, now you can see where she was eating it as well.

An increasing number of websites and social networking services are adopting geotagging, allowing users to include their exact location when they update their status or upload a photo.

But privacy experts warn there are dangers in haphazardly broadcasting your location to the world.

The lists of services that incorporate geotagging, typically by using data from cellphones equipped with GPS technology, has been growing during the past year or so, with sites like Twitter, Flickr and blog providers enabling users to include their location in whatever they post. Facebook is expected to add geotagging soon.

There are even sites that exist solely to allow users to tell others where they are, such as Foursquare, Gowalla and Google's Latitude service.

Please rob me

- The recent proliferation of geotagging prompted a group of web developers from the Netherlands to launch the website pleaserobme.com, which offered Twitter posts of users announcing they weren't at home, suggesting they would be good targets for a break-and-enter.
- The site wasn't actually advocating burglary, says one of its creators, Boy van Amstel, but rather trying to make users think before they post.

Tamir Israel, a staff lawyer at the Canadian Internet Policy and Public Interest Clinic, says users shouldn't use these services without first thinking about the privacy implications of telling anyone with an Internet connection where they are and where they've been.

Israel says users who start geotagging what they post to the web might not realize how far that information can travel. For example, the immediate audience of a Twitter post is the author's followers, but now websites are taking geotagging information and superimposing tweets on real-time maps, so anyone can find out what people around them are saying.

The data will also be valuable to marketers for the same reason that social networking sites collect — and then sell — profile information such as favourite movies, he says.

Geotagging is fuelling the same debate about privacy that sites like MySpace and Facebook helped generate. Canada's privacy commissioner, who forced Facebook to make changes to its privacy policies, is already examining geotagging, says Israel. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Park Lawn buries conversion

TRUSTS Cemetery operator Park Lawn Income Trust announced yesterday it is putting its planned conversion to a corporate structure on hold as a result of changes to federal tax law.

The Toronto-based trust announced the planned conversion in early March under an arrangement with a subsidiary of LMS Medical Systems (Canada) Ltd., an inactive company.

Many of Canada's income trusts have switched to dividend-paying corporations in response to federal plans to wipe out the tax advantages such trusts enjoy. Commonly, they have done so by entering into arrangements to buy the tax losses of other companies to offset the taxes they will now have to pay as corporations.

6 Park Lawn indirectly owns six cemeteries in the Greater Toronto Area and an interest in Bloorpark Developments Inc.

Small development companies are particularly attractive as deal partners because they often have years of losses as they research and develop new products and can't use those losses to offset taxes until they start earning profits, often years down the road.

In its recent budget, Ottawa said, effective immediately, trusts acquiring a business with big tax losses will be restricted in their ability to use those losses to shelter earnings.

Tax experts say if a trust acquires a company in the same industry, the tax pools should be eligible.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Sports

Bolt to run 300-metre race

Jamaican sprint star Usain Bolt, left, will compete in the rarely contested 300-metre race at the traditional Czech Golden Spike meet in May. Organizers said yesterday that Bolt, who holds the world record at 100 and 200 metres, will attempt to break the world mark in the distance May 27 in Ostrava. Michael Johnson holds the current mark of 30.85 seconds. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Using cocaine 'huge mistake': Texas manager

BASEBALL Texas Rangers manager Ron Washington admitted he made a "huge mistake" when he used cocaine and failed a Major League Baseball drug test last season.

In his first public admission, he apologized yesterday for his behaviour, eight months after he told Rangers president Nolan Ryan, who turned down Washington's offer to resign.

Ron Washington

"I made a huge mistake and it almost caused me to lose everything I have worked for all of my life," Washington said at a news conference yesterday. "I am not here to make excuses. There are none."

Washington said he used cocaine only once and called it "stupid" and "shameful."

The failed test was first reported by SI.com.

Washington said he told the commissioner's office and Rangers officials about using cocaine before he had a routine drug test.

"He came forward and said he would resign," Ryan said. "He understood the consequences. We had a lot of discussions and a lot of soul searching on it." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Giguere mentoring Monster

Perhaps, the most important move in Jonas Gustavsson's fledgling hockey career didn't take place on the ice.

It possibly occurred in the Maple Leafs' dressing room when goaltending coach Francois Allaire shifted Gustavsson's locker from across the room to the one beside newcomer Jean-Sebastien Giguere after the veteran arrived in a late January trade with Anaheim.

Gustavsson jokes that it's better for conversation to have the "two most clever guys" sitting next to each other but it is no coincidence that the rookie has played some of his best hockey since taking up residence next to the 12-year NHLer at both the Air Canada Centre and the team's practice facility.

Rather than feeling threatened by a partner who was won four straight, Giguere has become a mentor for a freshman who is trying to develop a similar style of netminding under Allaire.

"It's important to be a team within the team," says Giguere, who clearly did not graduate from the Ed Belfour school of looking out for No.1.

"No one else knows what we're going through on a daily basis. I think it's important for us to support each other. You can't do that when you're across from each other in the dressing room. I think it's important that you talk to each other. I'll ask him if he thought I made a mistake or the other way around. Stuff like that." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ANDREW WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto Maple Leafs goalie Jonas Gustavsson takes a break yesterday during practice.

Weir expects strong return from Woods

GOLF Mike Weir wouldn't be surprised to see the name Woods on the leaderboard at Augusta National next month.

The Canadian lefty fully expects Tiger Woods to make a strong return to competitive golf at the Masters, not buying into the theory that the world's top player has erred by jumping straight into a major championship.

"He's proven a lot of people wrong (in the past) and taken time off and been able to come back and be sharp," Weir said in an interview yesterday. "I know he's probably working extremely hard right now on his game. He can draw on a lot of great memories there.

"The course obviously suits him really well, all of those things kind of play in his favour.

"I wouldn't be surprised one bit if he's competitive there. He's been the most dominant player for the last 10, 15 years — I wouldn't put it past him to be right in contention."

Woods has won four green jackets and posted a top-10 finish 10 of the 13 times he's competed in the Masters as a professional. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Masters

- Mike Weir will be making his 11th appearance at the Masters next month.

Bullpen battle heating up for Blue Jays

BASEBALL With less than three weeks until opening day, the Blue Jays' closer role is wide open.

But no matter how close the battle for the job may be, manager Cito Gaston insists the team will not have multiple closers entering the season. Left-hander Scott Downs and right-handers Jason Frasor and Kevin Gregg are competing head-to-head in an open audition.

"That's one thing that (pitching coach) Bruce (Walton) and I talked about," Gaston said. "We'd like to see these three guys in competition with some good hitters. We're getting to the point where teams are getting down to their club. This week is really going to be a week where they're moving players out and getting their players ready."

The Jays' trio of bullpen amigos have pitched in the same game for four games in a row, but always in a different order, the better to evaluate where they stand against one another. Recall that when Gregg was signed, he was promised a chance to win the closer's role. What better way than this?

"I like the idea of competition; that's what drew me over here," Gregg said after his one shutout inning against the Orioles yesterday, in which his only blemish was a two-out walk. The Jays won 4-1.

"It's an opportunity to be on the field in a role that you want to be in. I think we're slowly working in the stuff, mechanically bouncing ideas off each other." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Lee suspended five games

Seattle Mariners pitcher Cliff Lee has been suspended for the first five games of the regular season for throwing a pitch over the head of Arizona's Chris Snyder in an exhibition game this week. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alpine skier wins second gold

PARALYMPICS Standing at the top of the podium never gets old for alpine skier Lauren Woolstencroft, just harder.

Woolstencroft earned her second gold medal of the Paralympics yesterday by winning the women's standing giant slalom. She finished 7.57 seconds ahead of silver medallist Andrea Rothfuss of Germany.

"I haven't had a very good World Cup season," said the 28-year-old from North Vancouver. "I lost tons of races. That just motivated me to come here.

"It's a strong field. I'm surprised at the margins (of victory) because it's been really tight at the World Cup the last few years. I'm happy I can ski my best here."

Karolina Wisniewska of Vancouver came close to winning her second medal of the Paralympics, but finished fourth.

"I haven't had a very good World Cup season ... That just motivated me to come here."
Lauren Woolstencroft

"It's my best giant slalom result of the season," said Wisniewska, 33. "I would have loved to be on the podium again.

"Fourth place is really good for me."

Woolstencroft, the first double-gold medallist for Canada at these Games, won the race in two minutes 34.03 seconds. Rothfuss was clocked in 2:41.60, while Slovakia's Petra Smarzova was third in 2:41.63.

Woolstencroft won Monday's slalom race, while Wisniewska was third.

Born without legs below the knee and no left arm below the elbow, Woolstencroft has won seven Paralympic medals.

Despite her dominating performance yesterday, she said the medals are not coming any easier.

"When I won my first one in Salt Lake City, it was unexpected," she said. "There was no pressure on me going in. There was a lot less pressure on Paralympic athletes in general." THE CANADIAN PRESS

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
New Jersey 5 Pittsburgh 2
Calgary at Colorado
Chicago at Anaheim

TODAY'S GAMES
Pittsburgh at Boston, 7 p.m.
St. Louis at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Washington at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at Atlanta, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at TORONTO, 7:30 p.m.
Buffalo at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Philadelphia at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
San Jose at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Chicago at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
TORONTO 106 Atlanta 105
Charlotte 100 Oklahoma City 92
Cleveland 99 Indiana 94
Philadelphia 108 New Jersey 97
Boston 109 New York 97
San Antonio at Orlando, 8 p.m.
Chicago at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Memphis at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Utah, 9 p.m.
New Orleans at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

TODAY'S GAMES
Orlando at Miami, 7 p.m.
New Orleans at Denver, 9:30 p.m.

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FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto Raptors forwards Chris Bosh and Andrea Bargnani try to defend Atlanta Hawks forward Josh Smith last night at the Air Canada Centre. The Raptors won 106-105.

Bosh sinks winner

NBA RESULTS
Hawks 105 Raptors 106

Chris Bosh hit the game-winning shot with 2.1 seconds left as the Toronto Raptors rallied to beat the Atlanta Hawks 106-105 last night, ending a five-game losing streak.

The shot was one of the few bright spots for Bosh, who shot an abysmal 6-for-19 and finished with just 14 points and 10 rebounds. The other came in the second quarter, when a layup made him the first player in franchise history to reach the 10,000-point plateau

More importantly, the basket helped the Raptors (33-33) slow their descent down the Eastern Conference standings. Once comfortably in fifth place, the Raps came in having dropped 10 of their last 11 to find themselves clinging to eighth in the conference.

Andrea Bargnani had 22 points and 11 rebounds to lead the Raptors.

Jamal Crawford had a season-high 33 points off the bench for the Hawks (42-24), who had won four straight. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Another day, another new QB for Argos

CFL After wiping his roster clean of all quarterbacks last month, Toronto Argonauts head coach Jim Barker has filled his stable to the brim, announcing the signing of journeyman Cleo Lemon yesterday.

Lemon becomes the fourth quarterback under contract in Toronto.

"Cleo is a mobile quarterback with experience as a starter in the NFL," Barker said in a release. "He is smart, accurate and has a reputation as a solid decision-maker. We are excited to watch Cleo compete with our other quarterbacks for the opportunity to lead our club."

After releasing veterans Kerry Joseph and Cody Pickett, the Argos have added former Buffalo Bills backup Gibran Hamdan, Queen's University star Danny Brannagan and acquired Dalton Bell from the Saskatchewan Roughriders.

Toronto finished last in the CFL's East Division last season with a 3-15 record, missing the playoffs for the second straight season. The Argos have changed owners, overhauled their coaching staff and remodelled their roster.

Lemon's NFL career has featured stops in Baltimore, San Diego, Miami and Jacksonville. He has thrown for 2,702 yards and eight touchdowns over his career, which crested with the Dolphins, where he started in nine of 27 games. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports in brief

GOLF The manager for two-time Masters champion Jose Maria Olazabal says he will pull out of the Masters next month because he is suffering again from rheumatism. Sergio Gomez told the Press Association yesterday that Olazabal has pain in his shoulder, forearms and hands and is unable to swing properly.

PUCKS The women's Olympic hockey final didn't produce a golden goal on the scale of Sidney Crosby's overtime winner, but a dozen pucks from the women's championship game have sold quickly. An auction raised just more than $8,000 and the highest bid was $942 for a puck used in the first period, according to Dennis Kim, VANOC's director of licensing and merchandising.

NFL NFL owners will vote next week whether to allow each team a possession in overtime in the playoffs if the team winning the OT coin toss kicks a field goal on the first series. Previously, the game would end whenever either side scores, as what happened in the NFC championship game in January, with New Orleans beating Minnesota on Garrett Hartley's kick.

SOCCER Lionel Messi scored twice yesterday to lead defending champion Barcelona to a 4-0 victory over Stuttgart and into the Champions League quarter-finals. Barcelona won 5-1 on aggregate to ensure Spain has one team in the last eight with Real Madrid and Sevilla having been knocked out. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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JENNIFER BILL/FOR METRO CANADA

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

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RICK MCGINNIS/FOR METRO CANADA

People can enjoy soccer year-round in Downsview

The recreation hub of T.O.

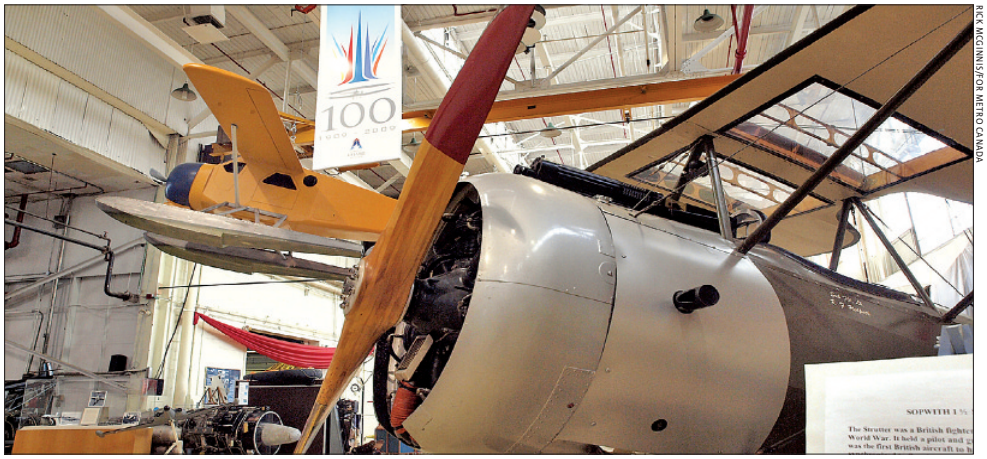
Downsview
Spaces & Places

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

A neighbourhood where most of Toronto comes to play sports, Downsview is also a place to enjoy some peace and quiet after the game.

Located between Sheppard Avenue and the 401 and bordered by Allen Road and the 400, Downsview is imminently accessible and well located despite its relatively small size.

Most of the homes in Downsview were built after the Second World War though years have seen new condo and home developments in the area as well. Originally a predominantly Caucasian neighbourhood, Downsview today contains a vibrant mix of cultures and backgrounds, particularly Italian, Black and Latino populations.



RICK MCGINNIS/FOR METRO CANADA

Downsview is home to a expansive air and space museum as well as being a home for sports and recreation.

From the sports complexes peppered throughout the heart of Downsview Park in the east to the residential oasis of quiet streets in the west, Downsview offers some surprisingly robust options for living.

The area is dominated by the ubiquitous Downsview Park, an expansive former Canadian Forces Base and airport now repurposed as an urban park, though the old airport lands are still used as a manufacturing and testing site by Bombardier.

Some of Toronto's biggest events have taken place at the park, including a visit by Pope John Paul II in 2002 and the 2003 SARS Concert, both of which drew between 500,000 and one million people to the city. The Canadian rock festival Edgefest has taken place at the park for several years in a row as well.

While concrete playlands set the tone in the commercial east side of Downsview, green spaces abound in the residential west with a long green belt of parks starting at the large Downsview Dells Park and encircling Jane Street south of Sheppard.

Downsview's outstanding accessibility to two major highways and several subway stations has brought plenty of shopping to the area as well, with Yorkdale Shopping Centre nearby just below the 401 and two other major malls at the Jane and Wilson and Lawrence and Wilson intersections.

CONTINUED>>

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Monarch

11:17 a.m.: your first assignment, move out of your mom's basement.

RAFAEL BRUSILOW/FOR METRO CANADA

Here's a shot of a game of indoor ball hockey at a hangar in Downsview airport.

The best is yet to come for Downsview

Downsview
Spaces & Places

RICK MCGINNIS
for Metro Canada

The airport runway that sits in the middle of Downsview is probably the most appropriate geographical landmark for this idiosyncratic Toronto neighbourhood. Without airplanes and the people who built them, Downsview would never have taken shape years before the city stretched up to and past this onetime farm.

The runway was made to test the planes built by de Havilland Canada when the company, a local subsidiary of a British company, moved from Mount Dennis to farmer's fields far north of the city. They built planes like the Tiger Moth, which was used to train military pilots, so when the Second World War began and demand for planes like this grew exponentially, so did de Havilland. It turned into a complex of hangars and manufacturing spaces that are mostly still there — forming the heart of the neighbourhood that grew up around the plant.

De Havilland built planes with names like the Beaver, Otter, Caribou and Chipmunk, and even after the Canadian Forces took over most of the Downsview plant after the war for an air base — and Bombardier ended up taking over the company in the '90s — their legacy is preserved in the Canadian Air and Space Museum that's moved into a few of de Havilland's old buildings.

The museum's home became available when the military base was closed in 1996. The buildings and the adjacent land provided the bulk of what's now known as Parc Downsview Park. It is a complex of buildings, green space and prospective new residential development that is, in the absence of a historic main shopping street, the heart of Downsview.

David Soknacki is a former city councilor who now chairs the board of directors of PDP, and he says that the hope is that Keele Street will become the main street Downsview lacks when the old de Havilland lands begin to take shape.

CONT.>>

What do you like about Downsview?

-compiled by Rafael Brusilow

Andres Cardenas

age 24, lives in the area

A: "Everything's around here and anything you need is close by. Fuzion Lounge and La Rumba play great Spanish music."

Maria Villalon

age 34, visits in the area

A: "I like that this area is very accessible. You can buy anything at the Btrust Supermarket."

Joe Ikenovak

age 60, lives in the area

A: "It's a wonderful place to live. The metro is convenient."

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RICK MCGINNIS/FOR METRO CANADA

A shot of Downsview's Canadian Air and Space Museums

<<FROM LAST PAGE

Right now, the area's commercial life boils down to the industrial park on the northern end of the park, and the strip malls on Keele, while the adjacent homes are a perfect time capsule of '50s and '60s suburbia, right down to the military housing that still remains by the entrance to the park — a collection of ranch houses and utilitarian Cape Cod style homes that evoke the little plastic properties in a Monopoly game.

"Keele Street is something that we hope on the park side will be very different in 10 years' time," Soknacki says. While most of the old hangars and plant buildings have become home to sports facilities — a collection ranging from go-kart course to rock-climbing gym — the parkland is a muddy work site, though with spring approaching, work is supposed to resume on the artificial lake and boardwalk that Soknacki is confident "will give the Beach a run for its money."

"Keele Street is something that we hope on the park side will be very different in ten years' time."
David Soknacki

The hottest issue right now, though, is how much of the land will be developed into residential and commercial properties — a controversial move that Soknacki says was a necessity. "When the federal government said that they believed in parkland space, their hand wasn't on their chequebook. The challenge of the park has been to be financially sustaining as well as maximizing the open space and the public space."

The finished parkland, Soknacki says, will be something like 365 acres of woodlot and water feature, playgrounds and pathways; by comparison, High Park is 398 acres, but the constantly shifting plans for the park made locals wary of what, ultimately, will be there when the work finally ends.

Right now, the best way to describe Downsview is a historically rich — and potentially revolutionary — work in progress.

RAFAEL BRUSILOW/FOR METRO CANADA

An airplane statue with condos in the background.

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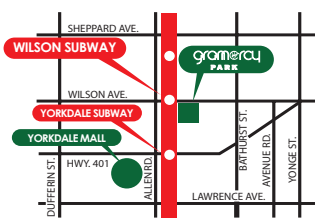

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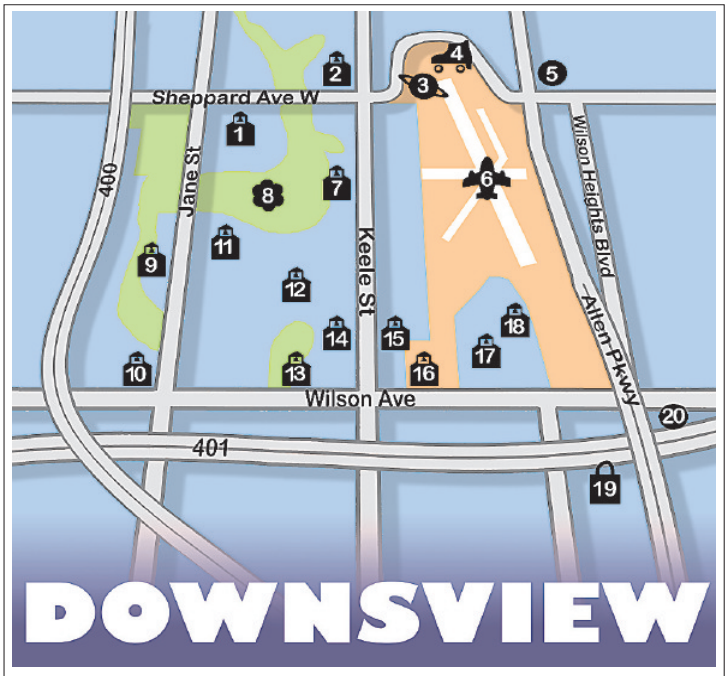

Legend

- 1: Calico PS, 35 Calico Dr.
- 2: Sheppard PS, 1430 Sheppard Ave. W.
- 3: Canadian Air and Space Museum
- 4: Roller derby (at a hanger in the downsview airport)
- 5: Metro Place, Metropolis and Parkside Tower, condos by Liberty Development Corp.
- 6: Downsview aiport
- 7: Blaydon PS, 25 Blaydon Ave.
- 8: Downsview Park
- 9: St. Gerard Majella (school)
- 10: St. Phillip Neri (school), 20 Beverly Hills Dr.
- 11: Beverley Heights MS, 26 Troutbrooke Dr.
- 12: St. Conrad (school), 610 Roding St.
- 13: Pierre Laporte MS, 1270 Wilson
- 14: St. Raphael (school), 3 Gade Dr.
- 15: Downsview SS, 7 Hawksdale Rd.
- 16: Madonna (school), 20 Dubray Ave.
- 17: Ancaster PS, 44 Ancaster Rd.
- 18: St. Norbert, 60 Maniza Rd.
- 19: Yorkdale Shopping Centre
- 20: Gramercy Park Condo residences

PHOTOS BY RAFAEL BRUSILOW/FOR METRO CANADA

A house in Downsview.

The Hangar at Downsview Airport.

The Lowdown

- **AVERAGE REAL ESTATE VALUE:** $367,124
- **RENT:** $851
- **CONDO DEVELOPMENTS:** Metropolis and Parkside Tower at Metro Place (Allen & Sheppard), Gramercy Park Condo Residences (Wilson & Tippet), Chicago (Wilson & Keele)
- **NOTABLE SCHOOLS:** Calico PS (35 Calico Dr.), St. Norbert (60 Maniza Rd.), St. Gerard Majella (35 Heavitree Rd.), Downsview SS (7 Hawksview Rd.), Sir Sanford Fleming Academy (50 Ameer Rd.), Sheppard PS (1430 Sheppard Ave. W.)
- **MAJOR GROCERY STORES:** Metro (1090 Wilson Ave.), Btrust Supermarket (1105 Wilson Ave.), Metro (600 Sheppard Ave. W.)
- **GETTING AROUND:** Nearby highway access to the 400 and 401, subway stations at Yorkdale, Wilson and Downsview.

RAFAEL BRUSILOW

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With a natural-looking ... basket-weave design, the eco-friendly Enviroblend Planter is manufactured from 55 per cent recycled plastics and 44 per cent natural materials. Canadian Tire, $16.99, canadiantire.ca. JENNIFER BILL/FOR METRO CANADA

To create this regal, papier mache animal head, the Zebra Savannah Story Bust is made of layers of repurposed cement bags, covered with vintage French book pages. Anthropologie, $78, anthropologie.com.

Homes in **Style**

Reduce, Reuse, **ReStyle**

JENNIFER BILL
for Metro Canada

Who says going green can't be gorgeous?

Incorporating sustainable materials into your home's design can make for attractive interiors that take it easy on the environment.

With the green movement continuing to grow and increasing emphasis on eco-friendly products, seeking design elements that use recycled products, redoing existing pieces and consignment shopping is all the rage.

"Companies are offering more products that have that designer look and feel to it and have that eco-friendly feel," says Marc Atiyolil, editor in chief of Canadian Home Trends magazine. "I think it's quite different from what it was 10 years ago. When you said eco-friendly and green, consumers thought ... a back to nature look.

"I'm seeing companies being more innovative and coming up with more designer looks with recycled products."

Many stores today are showing one-of-a-kind eco-friendly art designs from such reusable items as newspapers, magazines, or discarded bottles — meaning less rubbish for the landfill. Atiyolil, whose next issue focuses on green decorating, says many are turning to consignment stores to modify existing pieces. Case in point: Grandma's traditional chair — it might not fit into one's decor, but change around the outdated fabric, reupholster and repaint, and a new piece is born.

"You still have family memorabilia but it now goes in a trendy space ... instead of in your basement with a cover over it," he said.

The Time And Again Bird House, Red Pagoda ($78), is a home for the environmentally conscious flock, handmade from recycled wood and tins. Use it indoors as a quirky adornment or outside as a bona-fide shelter. Anthropologie, $78, anthropologie.com.

The Grey Cabin ($68) is made from recycled tins. Anthropologie, $78, anthropologie.com.

Found objects, trinkets and cast-offs revel in their new role as exuberant participants in the Magpie Chandelier. Each is a bespoke creation crafted by hand of reclaimed materials — recycled plastic, galvanized wire and string. This celebratory fixture was created by the members of the Magpie Art Collective and handmade in South Africa. Anthropologie, $5,000, anthropologie.com.

Light up a room or showcase a favourite object with the Bell Jar Table Lamp. The lamp is topped with a textured cotton shade, with a dome display base of hand-blown, clear recycled bubble-glass. West Elm, $149, westelm.com.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

DANIELS FIRSTHOME™ DESTINATION DRIVE ON SALE THIS MONTH

Incredible opportunity for affordable homeownership in the heart of Erin Mills!

On Wednesday, March 24th and Thursday, March 25th, The Daniels Corporation will hold their much anticipated Preview Sales Event for Daniels FirstHome™ Destination Drive – the company's newest community designed to make homeownership easy and affordable for today's first-time homebuyers. **Sales at this exciting new community will begin at 8 a.m. sharp on Saturday, March 27th on a first come, first served basis.** Those who have not yet registered to attend the Preview will want to act NOW. The company's seventh FirstHome™ Community, Destination Drive follows in the footsteps of the wildly successful FirstHome™ Eglinton West, which went on sale last spring and ***sold out in just one day!*** This exciting new community will also offer first-time buyers quality-built homes in a desirable location at incredible prices - and judging by the overwhelming response to date, Destination Drive is expected to sell out quickly.

Ideally located at the northwest corner of Winston Churchill Boulevard and Destination Drive, in the heart of Erin Mills, **FirstHome™ Destination Drive will offer MORE new home designs than ever before**, with a limited collection of condominium suites AND townhomes, **starting from an incredible $139,900**.

In addition to one- and two-storey condominium townhomes, FirstHome™ Destination Drive will introduce a new collection of three-storey, two- and three-bedroom townhomes featuring finished lower level walk-outs to private fenced-in backyards. PLUS, for the first time ever within a FirstHome™ Community, Daniels will offer condominium suites ranging from studios to three-bedroom plus den designs set within a beautiful four-storey boutique condominium building.

"The homes at Destination Drive will be fully-built when the community goes on sale on Saturday, March 27th" says Don Pugh, Vice-President of The Daniels Corporation. "This means that purchasers will be able to walk through a model of each new home design including a selection of furnished models and see, touch and feel which new home layout will best suit their lifestyle needs."

Daniels is paving the way to affordable homeownership for first-time buyers with their LIVE FREE Program available exclusively at FirstHome™ Destination Drive. This innovative program waives the interim occupancy fee until the condominium is registered. This means that purchasers can move into their new home at Destination Drive as early as **30, 60 or 90 days** and pay only their deposit payments each month until they reach **5% down**.

Plus, Daniels is going to make paying that 5% easy by offering their Gradual Deposit Payment Plan. Purchasers will only have to pay $2,500 with the Agreement of Purchase and Sale, another $2,500 within 10 days of their purchase and then $1,000 every month until they reach 5% of the purchase price, it's THAT easy!

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Suite Talk online
Metro has been running weekly Suite Talk features for more than a year now, check Metronews.ca for the archives and discover all the beautiful condominiums in Toronto.

Beach themes on Lake Shore

Suite Talk

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Seen here are some shots from the Waterscapes at Waterview model suite on Lake Shore West and Park Lawn Road.

Nature inspires design at Waterscapes at Waterview, and the result is nothing short of extraordinary.

The model suite of the development, situated at Lake Shore West and Park Lawn Road, showcases the power of light and nature to create an enduring sense of beauty and comfort.

Designer Carmen Dragomir of Esqape Design used the lakefront lifestyle itself as inspiration to create a space that melds modern sensibilities with seemingly effortless simplicity. "My main inspiration was the waterfront, lakeside living, clean lines and colour tones inspired by Ralph Lauren nautical themes with an infusion of silver accents," she said.

Dragomir used dark navy blue tones to represent water and act as a dynamic element in the suite, along with white sand tones throughout to inspire a feeling of being on a white, sandy beach. She also used reflective surfaces extensively within the suite, particularly in the living area where large bevelled mirrors take over an entire wall to reflect the impressive lake views, which she says are an integral part of the building's design. Nature itself, in fact, informs every element of Dragomir's design at Waterscapes and the neutrality of tones is meant to leave room for a buyer's own inspiration.

"Nature has a diversity that we can very much recreate in our living environments and as a result we create a symbiotic space where one colour engages different conversations. Colour creates emotions therefore while designing this model suite I intentionally left room for the buyer to add his or her own personal touches," Dragomir said.

In the master bedroom, light flourishes and rebounds playfully with elements like shimmering glass and high-gloss furniture to create a luxurious look that still feels tranquil.

"My inspiration for this room was the design of luxurious cabanas used in hotel designs, where the main element is the white sheers or canvas. The overall final design resembles an idyllic peaceful garden," Dragomir said.

The master ensuite bathroom uses earthier tones to create a spa-like feel for well-earned relaxing.

"The finishes and colours are more on the warm side as we intended to extend the main bedroom look in a way that you are drawn to the ensuite for those special spa times. Bathrooms are the place to unwind after a busy day and to go back to our senses by infusing light, textures and fragrance," Dragomir said.

The lowdown

- Waterscapes at Waterview
- Builder: Monarch
- Monarchgroup.net
- Sales centre: 68 Marine Parade Dr.
- Phone: 416-495-3544
- Available now
- Sizes & Pricing: Sized from 605 to 1,605 sq ft and priced from the $300,000s

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Time to start thinking about your garden

HomeScape

Sylvia Putz
metronews.ca/homescape

Mulch and vegetation gardening are coming back in a big way.

If you're a gardener or planning on landscaping this spring, be prepared to take a nature-friendly approach (if you haven't done so already).

Here are some of the nature-oriented landscaping and gardening trends that have become increasingly more evident over the last few years, and will be noticeably stronger this spring.

• **Lawns:** Lawns going, going, gone? Grass is becoming less popular because it's not an environmentally friendly option, since it sucks back a lot of water, requires cutting (usually with a gas-powered lawnmower), and the occasional dosing of fertilizer or bug killer.

• **Forest look:** Natural-looking plantings are in, so the yard looks like a meadow, or a forest floor. Manicured gardens and lawns are out.

• **Local:** Native plants and shrubs are appearing, rather than non-native plants that require extra watering, pest control and other ministrations. Low-maintenance flowers and other plants that grow without any help from us in local meadows and fields are appearing in gardens.

• **Decks and patios:** To enjoy natural settings, decks or patios are a must. Natural stone pavers are appearing more often, with sand between them, to encourage drainage. Porous pavers are also appearing on the market, with the goal of allowing rainwater to soak into the soil. And don't forget the substantial, durable and comfortable outdoor furniture.

• **Growing food:** Vegetable gardens are coming back with a vengeance. Rising food prices have made them more popular, as well as a wish to eat fresh organic foods.

• **Pests:** Some of the old-fashioned pest control methods that use spices such as cayenne, citrus oil or crushed mint are making a comeback. (There are a ton of natural pest control solutions on the internet.)

• **Mulch:** Mulch is big. It's a natural way to keep the soil around plants cool, damp, and it inhibits the growth of weeds.

Sylvia Putz is a journalist with an interest in decor and design. She's written for the TV show Arresting Design; sputz@arrestingdesign.com.

Matrimonial home issues

LegalMatters

Jeffrey D. Cowan
jeff@cowanlaw.ca

Q We put in an offer on a condo through our real estate agent and it was accepted by the vendor a month ago. Subsequently, we learned that the home had been occupied by the vendor and her then husband. Although she was not married when she purchased the property, it was at one time a matrimonial home. In the interim period, the couple was divorced but there appears to be no settlement and the court file for their divorce was discontinued apparently because they could not resolve matters. Our lawyer says we don't have to worry about the former spouse and getting his consent to the transaction as he was never on title to the property but we are still worried the transaction may be faulty. What is your advice?

A Usually, when a property has been occupied as a matrimonial home, no matter whether both spouses were on title, the spouse who is not on title usually has to consent to a transaction according to the Family Law Act. It is somewhat troubling that it appears their divorce was unresolved and therefore they may not be technically divorced. However, your lawyer is correct that you shouldn't worry about the transaction.

As a matter of course, the vendor will state her matrimonial status in a Declaration. She will simply state: "I am not a spouse." You can rely upon this declaration that is sworn in front of a commissioner of oaths if in turn the ex-spouse challenges her ability to sell what had at one time been a matrimonial home. The issue could arise but it would be between the spouses and should not affect your title to the property. Your transaction should in this respect go off without a hitch.

Jeffrey Cowan is the principal with Cowan Taylor and McGee, Barristers & Solicitors. The information in this article should not be relied upon as legal advice.

Columns archived online
For archived of both Karl Lohnes' Decor Moment and Stephen Dupuis' Rooftop Surfing columns, see Metronews.ca

Design nightmare to decor dream

DecorMoment

To a movie buff, a flat screen television can be a beautiful thing; But to a decorator it can be their worst nightmare. Trying to incorporate a TV into a room (especially a small space) can be difficult as it is instantly made the focal point of a room.

If you must live with your television front and centre like I do, then there area few designer rules to follow:

Incorporating a black television into your decor scheme: If the black television is the only black object in the room, then it will stand out like a sore thumb. I suggest adding a few other dark-toned decorative items to the room, like black picture frames, curtain rods, lampshades or small furnishings. The more black that get added around the room, the less obvious our flat screens will be.

"Trying to incorporate a TV into a room (especially a small space) can be difficult as it is instantly made the focal point of a room."

Choose the right size television for the room: The screen should be a comfortable distance for viewing. You should sit eight to nine feet away from a 32" screen, 10 to 12 feet away from a 42" screen, 13 to 14 feet away from a 50" screen. Purchase a flat screen television that reflects the size of the room, not your ego, boys!

Hanging the television at regular picture height is too high: The middle of the television screen should be between 42-52 inches from the floor as opposed to artwork, which should be hung at 66 inches (from floor to middle). If you hang your television higher, then you will require an angle bracket to tilt the television to your eye level.

How to correctly hang your TV above a mantle can be quite tricky, but with a little work it can be perfect.

Don't compete with the fireplace: The television should be three to eight inches above the mantel (this rule is the same as if you were hanging a painting or mirror over a mantel too). For good proportion, the television should be approximately 3/4 the width of the mantel. Anything smaller will look puny and anything larger will overshadow the fireplace.

TV stand favourites:

The **Vista pedestal** from CasaLife (casalife.com, $850) turns your flat screen into a modern sculpture. Perfect for small spaces or placing a television in front of window.

The **Country Pine Console** from Sears (sears.ca, $480) is a long, low pine cupboard which will house your television, but also offers up a ton of storage. It will add casual country charm to a room and the extra storage is great.

Designer Tip

The wall that the flat screen hangs on is the perfect wall to paint a focal paint colour.

Deep-toned colours like charcoal grey or chocolate brown will help to create less contrast between the black television and the wall, making the television visually disappear in the room. Dark colours also add drama to the room.

Karl Lohnes is passionate about good decor and wants to help you have a beautiful home; no matter what your budget or style. Catch him on CTV's Canada AM

Home/condo ownership interest still skyrocketing

RooftopSurfing

"We're seeing a high level of confidence in the Ontario real estate market with the majority of buyers continuing to believe it's a wise choice." Doug Crowe of RBC

Toronto's condo craze could continue for a while if the results of the recent RBC Homeownership Survey prove to be accurate. The number of people intending to buy a new home has increased over last year while the number of people that see homeownership as a good investment has gone through the roof (please pardon the pun).

Nationally, 10 per cent of respondents say they are likely to buy a new home in the next two years, up from seven per cent last year, while provincially, 34 per cent intend to buy in the next two years, up from 30 per cent in 2009.

What's particularly revealing about the survey results is the attitudes towards home ownership as an investment with 91 per cent of survey respondents affirming their belief that home ownership is a good investment. This is the highest level in 12 years and it's consistent with the survey finding that 64 per cent of Ontarians expect house prices to rise in 2010.

Some of the other interesting findings from the survey include the reasons for planning to purchase in the next two years, which include good housing prices (32 per cent), good interest rates (20 per cent) and the HST (5 per cent).

The RBC survey probed the whole mortgage question that's playing on peoples minds these days and found that nearly two-thirds of buyers expect rates to rise in the next year. As part of a clear hedge strategy, four out of 10 borrowers are planning to take out a fixed rate mortgage while just 17 per cent are leaning towards a variable rate mortgage with the balance looking at combination mortgages.

What was particularly encouraging about the survey findings was the more than 40 per cent of borrowers who are paying off their mortgages faster than expected and the even larger number (64 per cent) who are taking advantage of low interest rates to pay down more principal on their mortgage.

The RBC Homeownership Survey results tell me that homebuyers are not going to get caught sitting on the fence, however they are also not going to over-extend themselves. As RBC rep Doug Crowe says, "We're seeing a high level of confidence in the Ontario real estate market with the majority of buyers continuing to believe it's a wise choice."

Stephen Dupuis is president and CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD). He can be reached at president@bildgta.ca.

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How to pay for your home reno

RICHARD WOODBURY
for Metro Canada

For small projects a credit card might be your best option for financing your renovation, for larger one, it's best to look into other options.

When considering how to finance home renovations, the first step should be to get some sound financial advice.

"Any person considering doing a renovation, talk to your bank, talk to your financial institution or whoever you're dealing with," says Craig Bannon, the manager of mortgage specialists for the metro Halifax area with RBC. "Or if you're not dealing with anybody, go find somebody because of all the different options. I think it's important to sit down and get some advice."

Bannon says choosing the right financing option depends on factors such as the cost of the renovations and how much equity people have in their homes.

For smaller renovations, Bannon says people might just use a credit card because of convenience and potential loyalty reward points. Credit cards have higher interest rates (usually between 10 and 20 per cent) so they're "not a long term borrowing solution," says Bannon.

For larger renovations, getting a line of credit or a home equity line of credit (HELOC) are possibilities as well. The biggest difference between the two is the HELOC is secured by the value of one's home, which also means it has lower interest rates.

A HELOC can finance up to 80 per cent of the value of one's home, but it's a little more complicated to make purchases with it.

"The only disadvantage I can think of would be you can't actually go into a store and pay for something with it, but … you can either use your debit card or credit card and just transfer your money over," says Bannon.

Another borrowing option is to refinance one's mortgage, which can usually be done up to 90 per cent of the value of a home. One of the advantages with this is there is a lot of flexibility involved, such as choosing variable or fixed rate mortgages and selecting different term lengths.

The timing is also very appealing.

"No matter what interest rate term you pick now, you're going to beat the 25-year average handsomely," says Barry Rathburn, a mobile mortgage specialist with TD Canada Trust in the mid-Vancouver Island area.

"No matter what interest rate term you pick now, you're going to beat the 25-year average handsomely."
Barry Rathburn on the benefits of refinancing your home for a reno

He also recommends people look into the incentives available for energy efficient renovations.

"The energy efficiency not only saves you money in the long run, but there are incentives from (the various levels of government) to help you offset the cost," says Rathburn.

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Monarch

Fashion in the prairies

Alberta Fashion Week begins Sunday (until March 27) at the BR& at the Banke. Designers will include Jason Matio, Andrew Majtenyl and Holly Allen. For more information, visit albertafashionweek.ca. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Style

The outdoorsy type

Men are looking to reconnect with nature and embrace their inner athlete this season with sports wear and casual chic looks on the runway. One of the most important ways for men to stay on top of their game is with that key accessory: A watch. Guess' latest Spring 2010 collection embodies this style, offering function and sporty durability. Pictured: Guess yellow band watch, $280, far left, and Guess brown leather band watch, $115, left.

METRO NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Cuckoo for clogs

The iconic '70s shoe is back on runways and on the street

Lace clogs, $125, Aldo.

Studded clog, $59, Joe Fresh

Peep toe flower-print and beige Stuart Weitzman clogs, $385 each, available at Holt Renfrew

Clogs as part of Chanel's spring /summer 2010 ready-to-wear fashion collection.

JACQUES BRINON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Camilla Skovgaard clog, $795, available at Holt Renfrew

Prada clog, $730, available at Holt Renfrew

Blue clog, $65, available at Naot and Prairie Dog stores.

Tory Burch clog, $300, available at Holt Renfrew

HEATHER BUCHAN
for Metro Canada

There's a new footwear craze ushering in spring: Clogs. Yes, that's right, they're back.

But before you choke on your latté while imagining donning a pair of humble Dutch-style all-wood shoes painted yellow, take comfort in the fact that 2010 clogs have been reworked into updated versions.

Those that marched down the runways in New York, Paris, London and Milan, featured luxurious suede and leather uppers, and ranged in styles, from Prada's leather sandal clogs to the stiletto clogs at Yves Saint Laurent, to the studded platform clogs (reminiscent of the '70s disco era) at Chanel.

Christine Carlton, divisional director of accessories at Holt Renfrew, who always has her finger on the pulse of the latest trends, says, "It was definitely everywhere. It's the trend with every brand. The standard is the low wood construction, but many of the designers did create a high heel clog, which is obviously their take on it."

"A clog is very of-the-'70s and we're starting to see a little bit more of that boho chic," says Carlton, adding, "there's always different eras that many designers go back to, and everything has a life cycle, so everything comes back over and over again."

Still, if the clunky look of the clog hasn't sold you on getting a pair for spring, perhaps their wearability will. "It's actually a comfortable shoe because it's a solid wood construction bottom," explains Carlton. Regardless, as Carlton points out, a trend is a trend and clogs are fashionable again.

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Nash graces Harry cover

Harry Magazine, the award-winning publication by Harry Rosen Inc., will feature one of Canada's top all-time athletes, Steve Nash — Phoenix Suns point guard and a two-time NBA Most Valuable Player — on its Spring 2010 cover. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Making waves

Nautical blue and white mariner stripes are spotted on land and around the world

Sailor stripes, as Gallic as the baguette or beret, are having a worldwide trendy moment from Toulouse to Toyko to Toronto.

You can't walk through a mall without your vision going bleary from the graphic sharp lines in the many fast-fashion stores. Yes, the nautical look is once again creating waves in fashion. The popular blue and white mariner stripes are leaving the high seas for the shore.

Despite the record-breaking frigid temperatures in Paris earlier this month, the fashion flock at the fall Ready-to-Wear 2010 shows looked like they were ready to cast anchors aweigh in their striped T-shirts worn under black blazers.

It was Coco Chanel who, upon seeing sailors in their hefty, scratchy wool nautical striped sweaters, first adapted the look for her wealthy clients in the 1930s.

A more contemporary French designer, Jean Paul Gaultier, has adapted these mariner stripes — also known as Breton stripes because of the look's association with the Brittany coast — as one of his signatures over the years.

Perhaps it was last year's French movie, Coco Avant Chanel, featuring Audrey Tatou as the famous designer, that helped paved the path for this season's straight lines in fashion.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tank dress, $14.95, at H&M

Iconic designer Coco Chanel, portrayed here by Audrey Tatou in the film Coco Avant Chanel, was inspired by sailors to create nautical-like fashion pieces in the 1930s.

Bag, $118, at Town Shoes

Nine West Shoes, $130, at Town Shoes

Jacket, $94.90, at Mango

Skirt, $129, at Club Monaco

Sweater with birds and heart, $69.90, at Mango

Ruffle top, $29.95, at H&M

Style in brief

FASHION WEEK Up-and-coming designer and sweetheart of the Halifax fashion scene, Katrina Tuttle, will be showing for a second season at LG Fashion Week by L'Oréal Paris in Toronto on March 31 at 5 p.m. Launched in 2007, Tuttle's collections are often influenced by nature, and her fall/winter 2010 collection is no exception. Inspiration for the season came after flying in a private airplane with her father, where she found herself in awe of the rock formations, pools of water and dynamic colours of the forests that can only be seen from an aerial view. Tuttle then translated the scenery and unique viewpoint into her garments' silhouettes, textures, colours and patterns. For Tuttle's fall/winter collection (pictured, right), fashion lovers will see lots of black, gold and grey with pops of green, purple and blue, in charming tailored jackets, chic cocktail dresses and pants made to be worn on the town.

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Yet another venue change for Toronto Fashion Week

CHANGE If you come across a gaggle of confused but well-dressed fashionistas mincing through Toronto's west end March 28, take heart. The dears have been misled.

While on Feb. 22 the Fashion Design Council of Canada's (FDCC) Robin Kay announced enthusiastically that she'd found an ideal home for Toronto Fashion Week, a cavernous warehouse at 30 Ordnance St. that she hoped would be permanent, that's apparently changed. A March 10 FDCC news release has revealed the new-new venue for fashion week will be the Allstream Centre at 105 Princes' Blvd. at Exhibition Place.

Nailing down a location just 18 days before the opening ceremonies has left some members of the city's fashion community perplexed.

The release insisted, "30 Ordnance, was a romantic idea;" however, Toronto's fashion week "requires a much larger canvas to articulate its vision."

By telephone this week Kay said this was a very challenging season for the FDCC. "As fashion week gets bigger it needs a permanent home and I was hoping we could stay at 30 Ordnance for three years. It's an upward move to the Allstream Centre though it doesn't have as much soul."

Kay said the move was most difficult for sponsors, who she says are slow to accept change. The 160,000-square-foot Allstream Centre (the old automotive building at Exhibition grounds) is billed as Canada's newest and greenest conference centre.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Pat Mcdonagh's spring/ summer 2010 runway show at Toronto Fashion Week.

Just the facts

- Toronto Fashion Week will be held at Allstream Centre
- Location: 105 Princes' Blvd. at Exhibition Place
- Dates: March 28 to April 3

Style in brief

WEBSITE Newly launched, MyShoes.com, is a unique website designed to help consumers find the perfect shoe by searching hundreds of online retailers and returning exactly what the consumer wants. Once the consumer inputs what they're looking for (height, color, size, trend, price...) MyShoes.com works with Piperlime.com, Zappos, Nordstrom and many more to find all applicable shoes and price comparisons. A great feature about MyShoes.com is that the site automatically adds in any applicable coupons for shoes from PromotionalCodes.com to ensure you're getting the best deal available.

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BLUSH TONES

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ADVICE Showcase your romantic side with lustrous, satiny fabrics and feminine flourishes in rosé or orange-hued beiges. Mixing shiny and matte finishes is a great way to play with texture and adds depth to any outfit.

Synthetic-leather handbag, Spring ($40, myspring-shoes.com)

Silk top, Cassis ($59, cassis.ca)

Leather platform sandals, Guess ($150, 1-800-465-3638)

Cotton dress, Nümph ($120, at La Maison Simons, simons.ca)

STUDIO ANDRÉ DOYON

(LEFT) Belted cotton and Tencel trench coat, S'nob ($295, agencemelaniemclean.com); (ABOVE) Rayon pleated skirt, Miss Sixty ($129, info@sixtycanada.com)

GOLDEN TICKET

For a natural, sun-kissed glow, skip the shimmery bronzing powder.

EXPERT Greg Wencel, makeup pro for CoverGirl, senior makeup artist for M.A.C 1Use a concealer to spot-correct redness and imperfections. 1Use a large, fluffy brush to apply a cream or liquid foundation that's half a level darker than your everyday shade to places where the sun naturally hits 1Rub a cream blush into the apples of the cheeks for a subtle flush, and pat a pearly highlighter along the cheekbones and in the inner corners of the eyes for a glistening effect.

CoverGirl Simply Ageless Sculpting Blush in 210 Rich Cinnamon ($15)

Origins Youthtopia SPF 15 Skin Firming Foundation with Rhodiola in Deep Shade 8 ($33)

Stila Lip & Cheek Stain in Yumberry Crush ($32)

Biotherm Celluli Laser D. Code ($79)

SPOT REMOVER

Bikini season is hot on our heels — time to call in the reinforcements! Biotherm's latest body cream targets cellulite caused by lifestyle choices (read: hitting the pub instead of the gym) and genetics. The multi-tasking formula uses a patented complex that activates AMPK, an enzyme believed to regulate metabolism, while ginkgo and lotus flower extracts curb new fat-cell development and boost circulation.

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Hobbit to start filming in June
Ian McKellan has revealed that filming for The Hobbit will finally get underway in June. The actor, who took on the role of Gandalf in The Lord of the Rings trilogy, posted on his website that filming will begin in the summer. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Entertainment

Conan film
Conan O'Brien is in early talks to film a documentary of his 30-city Legally Prohibited From Being Funny on Television Tour, reports Deadline's Mike Fleming. EW.COM

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

White Stripes conquer Canada

The White Stripes

Album: Under Great White Northern Lights **Label:** Warner
Rating: ●●●●

IF CANADIANS NEED another reason to feel pride post-Olympics, they should pick up The White Strips' new DVD/CD chronicling the group's extensive 2007 Canadian tour. The CD, which can be bought separately, is where the musical meat resides. This disc is amazing to listen to — Jack White gives a shout out to Yellowknife, brings up his cousin on a Cape Breton stage during the song Prickly Thorn, but Sweetly Worn to play bagpipes — and it's a treat simply to know this was recorded on Canadian soil. The disc covers the Stripes' entire catalogue, and they do it well, with all their gritty, intense rock on full display.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Ghostkeeper

Album: Ghostkeeper
Label: Flemish Eye
Rating: ●●●●½

RECORDED IN A number of public and private spaces and then stitched together as a sound collage, Ghostkeeper's second album is more like a warm, itchy quilt than any sort of Frankenstein monster. Built of Shane Ghostkeeper's varied and sporadic influences, the songs jump back and forth between an off-kilter, folk songwriting style, rickety bursts of indie rock, swampy blues-guitar tangents and a surprising amount of concord between the unpredictable instruments, Shane's whiskey-soaked croak and Sarah Houle's recurring, feverish moan. The album's capricious movements tends to reach overwhelming levels at points, but it's this loose cannon mentality that gives these Albertans their distinction from virtually every other band out there.

Cam Lindsay/for Metro Canada

Album Reviews

music@metronews.ca

Crash Karma

Album: Crash Karma
Label: E1 Entertainment
Rating: ●●

IF YOU DIDN'T know it, the '90s are back. And to prove it, Edwin's teamed up with OLP's Mike Turner, Tea Party's Jeff Burrows and Zygote's Amir Epstein to bring back all the sounds we haven't missed. This album is exactly what you think — classic mid-'90s Can Rock, complete with Edwin's over wrought vocals and Turner's fancy, crunchy riffs. It's hard not to want to listen to this in your childhood bedroom, but we're not kids anymore. It's a bland, unimaginative record with sounds that don't stand the test of time.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Under Great White Northern Lights details The White Stripes' extensive 2007 tour of Canada.

The Whigs

Album: In The Dark
Label: ATO/MapleMusic
Rating: ●●½

HERE'S A PIECE of advice for all the bands out there — don't go on tour with Kings of Leon. Until the Athens-based trio The Whigs hit the road with the Followill clan the group expertly delivered Replacements-meets-Pixies sounds. The band has gotten brasher, more streamlined and, well, more Kings. It's becoming harder to differentiate the group from all the other rock bands out there, though it's not all a lost cause — Kill Me Carolyn is a frenetic, engaging riff rocker that'll remind you why you got into the band in the first place.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Frightened Rabbit

Album: The Winter of Mixed Drinks **Label:** Fat Cat
Rating: ●●●½

ON THEIR PREVIOUS album, Scotland's Frightened Rabbit laid down some roots signalling they could do sweeping, anthemic rock selling misery instead of hope. The Winter of Mixed Drinks inches them even closer to the mainstream reverence and arena gigs of sonic peers like U2 and Coldplay. Where Frightened Rabbit have and will always differ from those two bands is their brutal honesty as songwriters, which brings riveting climaxes in songs like The Wrestle and Foot Shooter. While they have sacrificed some of the grit and wretchedness that made them such a favourite among the indie set, this third album could very well attain the wider exposure this band was always destined for.

Cam Lindsay/for Metro Canada

Elizabeth Shepherd

Album: Heavy Falls The Night
Label: Right On Media
Rating: ●●½

STRIVING FOR ECLECTICISM, Toronto-based singer/songwriter/pianist Elizabeth Shepherd incorporates many genres and moods into tertiary full-length Heavy Falls The Night. From the plinky keyboard and jazzy feel of High through What Else with its '70s singer in a beatnik cafe aura to the simplistic rendition of Anne Murray's lilting Danny's Song, there's no lack of diversity. Still, while each track is performed brilliantly and Shepherd's voice is velvety-smooth, the plethora of styles explored would have greater impact were they divided up in bigger chunks: by album, not track. The overall lack of a unifying foundation winds up making Heavy Falls The Night interesting but more esoteric than multifarious.

Keith Carman/for Metro Canada

Music Twitter

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Deadliest star accused of reckless driving

Deadliest Catch star Jake Harris has been charged with reckless driving and driving with a suspended license, after a Feb. 18 arrest in Seattle, EOnline.com reports. If convicted, the 21-year-old faces up to 15 months in prison. **POPEATER.COM**

Runaways raw and rocking

Canadian director captures all-girl teen band's roller coaster ride

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

For Hamilton-bred filmmaker Floria Sigismondi, one of the great memories of making The Runaways came during rehearsal when star Kristen Stewart's singing voice fooled even the true-life character she was imitating — Joan Jett.

"(Joan) said, 'Turn my vocals down so I can hear (Kristen)' and I was like, 'It's all her!'" recalled Sigismondi during a recent interview in Toronto to promote her new biopic about the legendary '70s rock outfit.

"I knew Kristen could sing and play guitar but when I met her, there was a sense of shyness and toughness to her which Joan has … and she really was determined and committed to the character and kind of soaked everything up."

Just as Stewart (best known for starring in the Twilight movies) mastered the gritty sound of Jett, Sigismondi absorbed the rest of teenaged rockers The Runaways — an all-girl group that was the brainchild of eccentric music producer Kim Fowley. Combing over singer Cherie Currie's 1989 memoir, Sigismondi soon harvested a script that was as much about capturing a moody coming of age story as it was about the music.

"It was nice to do something that was a little more subtle," said Sigismondi who cut her teeth directing influential videos for artists like Marilyn Manson and Christina Aguilera.

"Being a visual person, I've paid attention to (detail) and I wanted to capture that — the life backstage, the pimples at that age, the diet of potato chips and burgers on the road — I just wanted to feel what it was like."

For The Runaways, being on the road also meant a tumultuous life of drug abuse, sex and struggling egos at an incredibly young age.

But it also meant paving the way for future female rockers during a time when bands like The Bay City Rollers ruled radio airwaves.

"I think it's that sense of rawness and energy," said Sigismondi regarding what catapulted The Runaways to fame in 1975.

"Nobody was really talking to young kids and they were kind of talking about and singing about their age group and about experiencing some of these things that were a little more seedy … it was kind of raw and more physical and I think it completely goes with being fifteen."

The Runaways opens tomorrow

Kristen Stewart, left, and Dakota Fanning play Joan Jett and Cherie Currie in The Runaways, a film by Canada-bred director Floria Sigismondi, top right.

"I've paid attention to (detail) and I wanted to capture … the life backstage, the pimples at that age, the diet of potato chips and burgers on the road."
Director Floria Sigismondi

Haim mom's tragic 9-1-1 call revealed

Haim

ON TAPE Authorities in Los Angeles have released a heartbreaking 9-1-1 call made by the mother of Canadian-born actor Corey Haim.

Hundreds of friends, relatives and fans gathered in a Toronto church Tuesday at the funeral for the former teen icon.

Judy Haim is heard on the 911 tape saying, "Oh my God, I think my son is dead." She spent 10 minutes on the phone with a fire department dispatcher as she tried to perform CPR on her son.

Haim died in a Los Angeles-area hospital after suffering flu-like symptoms that included water in his lungs.

A coroner is awaiting results of toxicology tests on the body of the 38-year-old actor before determining a cause of death.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HollywoodRants

Steve Gow

Read the blog at metronews.ca/hollywoodrants

Selleck gunning for cop role
Magnum P.I. star Tom Selleck is in talks to play the lead role in an untilted CBS cop drama, according to The Hollywood Reporter. The pilot revolves around a family of New York cops. TVGUIDE.COM

This machine kills conspiracy tales

Author weighs in on Voodoo Histories

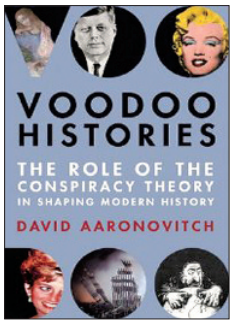
DOROTHY ROBINSON
Metro World News

Pearl Harbor. 9/11. The assassination of John F. Kennedy. Many people don't believe what's recounted in the history books. In Voodoo Histories, British author David Aaronovitch takes on those conspiracy theorists.

Q Who do you think are more into conspiracy theories, Americans or the British?

A I would have said the Americans, particularly in the way your politics are so polarizing. But then along comes the Diana "murder," and we quickly lose our smugness.

Q Why do smart people believe things that are so far-fetched?



A The thing about conspiracy theories is they are more satisfying than real life. They take all of the messiness and accident and coincidence out and replace it with something planned. So even if it's bad, it's still more reassuring that someone has planned something rather than it being so messy and awful.

Q What is the top theory you're surprised people believe?

A Sept. 11. (conspiracist) David Ray Griffin is a top theologian, but he can't see there isn't one kernel of evidence to support his theories.

The simple truth

• Next time a conspiracy theorist tries to sell you on something that isn't true, Aaronovitch says to repeat the philosophical principle of Occam's razor. "It's as simple as this: If you have two explanations, one simple and one complex, the one that is simple is most always true." Basically, don't introduce any unnecessary plots points.

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Celeb in car accident

Desperate Housewives star was in a nasty car accident yesterday, and the elderly gentleman he collided with had to be taken to the hospital. Shawn Pyfrom was driving in the San Fernando Valley at around 3:30 p.m. when his car collided with the man's bike. TMZ.COM

Leno move a boom for NBC prime time

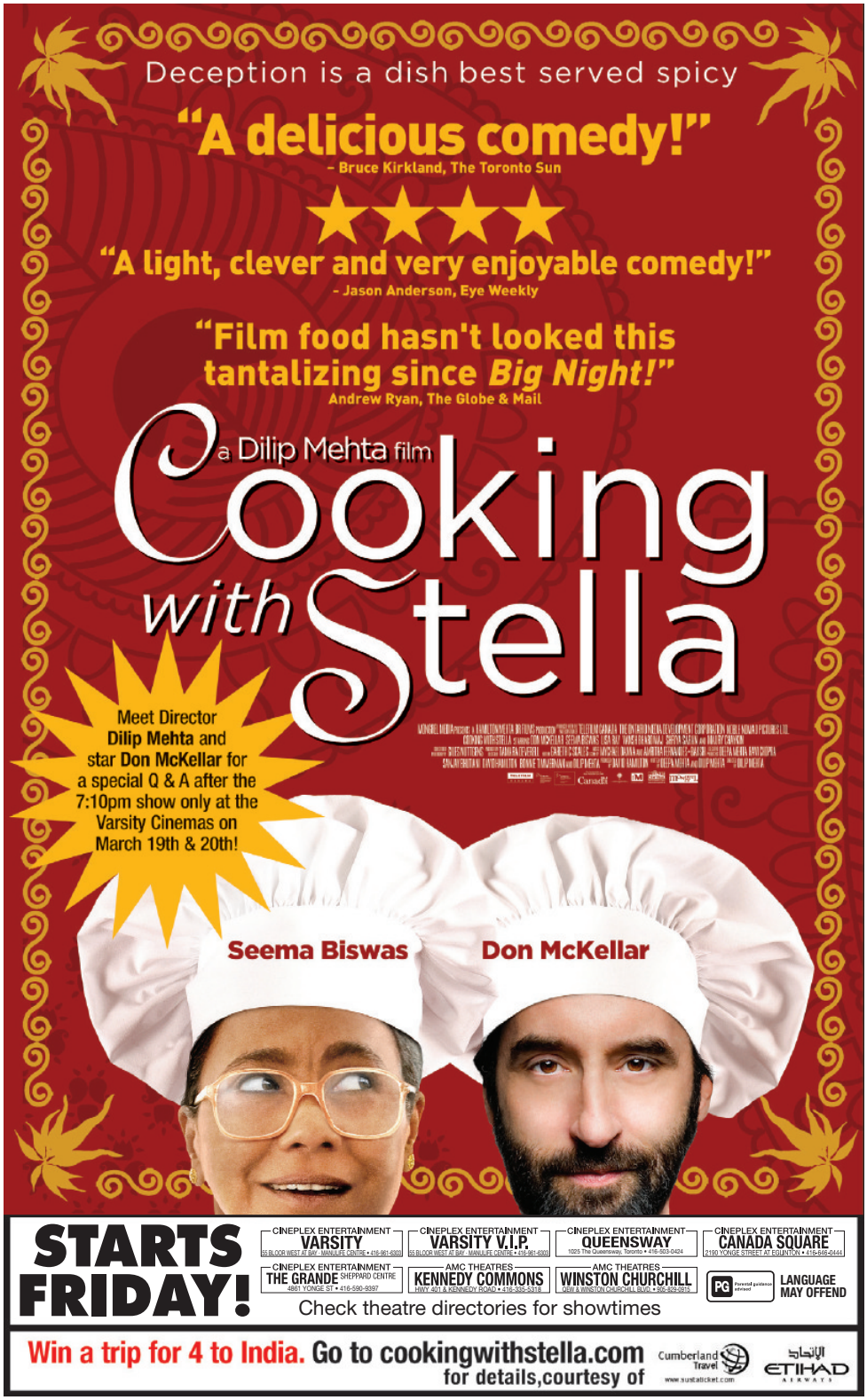
TV Two weeks after late night host Jay Leno left prime time and returned to the Tonight Show, NBC's audience for the final hour of prime-time TV has increased by 45 per cent.

While NBC doesn't necessarily have any hits in that hour, the instant response by viewers indicates they are more comfortable with the traditional mix of drama, news and reality rather than a late-night show moved into prime time.

The failed experiment of Conan O'Brien taking over the Tonight show and Leno moving into prime time ended just before the Olympics. Leno was averaging 5.15 million viewers in his new slot, the Nielsen Co. said. Through two weeks of other programming, the network is averaging 7.44 million at 10 p.m. Eastern. Local affiliates expressed anger that Leno's low ratings hurt their late local news.

NBC moved Leno back to the Tonight show. O'Brien quit instead of taking NBC's offer to move his start time back by a half-hour. NBC's most-watched program of the week, Law&Order: SVU, was in the 10 p.m. time slot Wednesday and was seen by 8.5 million people.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Actress Betty White returns to TV with sitcom Hot in Cleveland.

TV Land rolling out first sitcom

When TV Land was launched in 1996, it was more than just another cable channel. It was a refuge where viewers could revisit old friends like Beaver Cleaver, the Clampetts and Sheriff Andy Taylor. It was a portal into a video past, a carefully tended landscape of idealized TV.

TV Land hasn't trampled on that landscape in the meantime. But, even so, the neighbourhood has been spruced up through the years.

Consider Hot in Cleveland, a comedy series set for a June premiere. For the first time, TV Land is producing its own original sitcom. But Hot should fit right into the neighbourhood. It's funny, comfy and a true-blue reflection of the shows that surround it.

Filmed in the trusty multicamera style, it stars a bevy of grand dames of classic comedies: Valerie Bertinelli (One Day at a Time), Jane Leeves (Frasier), Wendie Malick (Just Shoot Me) and the incomparable Betty White (The Golden Girls).

The premise is evergreen: Fabulous friends make an abrupt life change, cutting their Los Angeles roots to relocate in, of all places, Cleveland. Then laughs ensue (at least judging from a sneak peek at the pilot that will kick off the series' 10-episode season).

"All the other networks are looking to reinvent the comedy," says Keith Cox, TV Land's executive vice-president of development and original programming. "'How do you step away from the traditional? What's the new thing?' But we're embracing the good old traditional comedy — it just needs to feel contemporary, be really funny and have really great actors."

> **"We're embracing the good old traditional comedy — it just needs to feel contemporary, be really funny and have really great actors."** Keith Cox

TV Land has another sitcom in gestation. Retired at 35 hasn't gotten an official go-ahead, but don't bet against such an announcement soon, with a premiere sometime after October. Based on its pilot, Retired has its own easy feel, comfort factor and familiar faces (George Segal and Jessica Walter among them), and its own reservoir of laughs.

Meanwhile, TV Land has more scripts in development, with the goal of building a slate of original sitcoms in the seasons ahead.

"We're already out there in a very big way looking for the next one," says TV Land president Larry W. Jones, though he adds, "Our agenda isn't just getting into original sitcoms."

TV Land, which began as a "classic TV" spinoff of Nickelodeon's Nick at Nite franchise, has already been airing original programming. Since 2008, several unscripted series like High School Reunion and Make My Day have found their place on the schedule amid scripted oldies.

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Summit scaling new peak for final Twilight
Sources say studio Summit is trying to up its pedigree for its big-screen adaptation of the final instalment of Stephenie Meyer's Twilight series; reaching out to top-notch directors, including Sofia Coppola, Gus Van Sant, and Bill Condon. EW.COM

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Who wants to play with new Toy Story?

FILM Play time is over for Woody the cowboy, Buzz Lightyear and friends.

Toy Story 3, which screened Tuesday for theatre owners attending their annual ShoWest convention, poses a new question for the gang from the 1995 hit that launched computer animation into the feature-film world: Is there life for a toy after your kid grows up?

"Come on, let's see how much we're going for on eBay," laments John Ratzenberger's Hamm the Piggy Bank as he and the other toys ponder a lonely future, with their owner, Andy, heading to college and leaving them behind.

Though the film is not yet finished, with much of the animation still in rough form, the screening provided a sneak peek for one of summer's most anticipated releases.

"The youngest kids who saw Toy Story and Toy Story 2 when they first came out are now kind of heading off to college. That's the position Andy's in, so it's very strange and nostalgic for people to see this character that is part of their childhood kind of growing up with them and facing the same life changes," said Toy Story 3 director Lee Unkrich, who was a film editor on Toy Story and co-director on Toy Story 2.

"For anyone who's had a transition in their life — heading off to college, parents sending their kids off to college, people getting out of college and heading off into the workforce.

"The youngest kids who saw Toy Story and Toy Story 2 when they first came out are now kind of heading off to college."
Toy Story 3 director Lee Unkrich

Those are major transitions. Our characters in their own way are dealing with similar transitions," Unkrich said in an interview after the screening.

For Andy's favourite playthings, Woody and Buzz (voiced again by Tom Hanks and Tim Allen), the transition threatens to end their long partnership as the toys argue over what steps would be best for their future.

Due in theatres June 18, Toy Story 3 also features returning voice cast members that include Joan Cusack, Don Rickles and Wallace Shawn. Among new voice co-stars are Whoopi Goldberg, Ned Beatty, Timothy Dalton and Michael Keaton.

Toy Story 3 is the 11th feature film from Disney-owned Pixar Animation, which recently won its latest Academy Award with last year's blockbuster Up. Pixar films have won five of the nine Oscars for feature-length animation since the category was added (the other winners are Finding Nemo, The Incredibles, Ratatouille and WALL-E).

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MATT SAYLES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Toy Story 3 director Lee Unkrich, right, and producer Darla K. Anderson get ready for the film's preview in Las Vegas Tuesday.

Mikkelsen in the cards

Bond villain defying gods in Clash of The Titans

SZONJA KREZINGER
Metro World News

To film fans, Danish actor Mads Mikkelsen will always be Bond villain Le Chiffre — who blew the multi-million dollar poker game in Casino Royale. But in real life the 44-year-old actor is actually a rather good tournament level player. Metro caught up with him at a Unibet tournament in Hungary.

Q When did you start playing poker?
A I've played poker for at least 25 years with family, friends, and enemies!

Q What do you enjoy about poker?
A That there are always new situations, things change, and you have to pay attention to everything. Poker is like mathematics, it has strict rules but once we understood them it is like football, you just have to go with the flow.

Mads Mikkelsen

Q How does it feel like to play at a tournament?
A Much different from simply playing poker. It might last up to three hours and you have to pay attention and be really disciplined.

Q Did your poker skills play role in you getting the as Le Chiffre role?
A No, they chose me as they thought I was a good enough as actor to play the role. It was just a bonus that I play poker.

Did the Bond role help your career?
Q
A Of course, a lot. It was fantastic, playing a Bond villain is really something. I was proud of myself and I liked the movie too.

Q Your new movie, Clash of The Titans, is ready for release — what's it like?
A There was an original version made back in 1981 but I never saw it. I think Gods, especially Greek and Nordic Gods, are like us. They have greed, jealousy, love, hate, not just a seat somewhere in the clouds. I play a soldier in the movie who hates the Gods.

Q Ralph Fiennes and Liam Neeson were in the movie too. How many scenes did you share with them?
A I had a scene with Ralph Fiennes but he was hanging up there in the air and I was on the ground… I saw Liam Neeson too, but I mainly worked with the soldiers, very good British and Irish actors.

Q Do you plan to keep acting for Danish cinema?
A Being Danish it is natural for me to act in Danish movies, and it is easier too.

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SECOND CUP

Simpson finds out true meaning of Beauty

In The Price of Beauty, a new docu-reality series premiering Sunday on VH1, Jessica Simpson and her best friends, CaCee Cobb and hairstylist Ken Paves, travel the world learning the meaning of physical attractiveness as defined by various cultures — and find out blonde bombshell isn't the universal sex symbol. Here are a few other things Simpson found out.

She could never be a runway model

"Going to Paris, I had to walk a runway with all of these tall, skinny models. And I almost puked, I was so nervous," Simpson admits. "I mean, I can walk a red carpet, but walking a runway, I mean, I would be the first to fall on my face. And thank God, I didn't. But I was so nervous to walk out there and be judged, to just put myself out there like that, especially standing next to people that eat just salad."

Good looks are in the eye of the beholder — literally.

"Originally I thought of a Moroccan woman living a repressed life, but after sitting and talking with these women, they're speaking to you through their eyes," Simpson says. "Their souls were just so intense and so beautiful. And, you know, it was all about their peace within and not what they look like on the outside.

AMBER RAY/METRO WORLD NEWS

Babies! More babies!
Amy Poehler and Will Arnett are expanding their brood. A rep for the Parks and Recreation comedienne confirms that the couple is expecting their second child. No due date has been released. **USMAGAZINE.COM**

Murdoch Mysteries keeps up with shows created on the shores of Sherlock's home

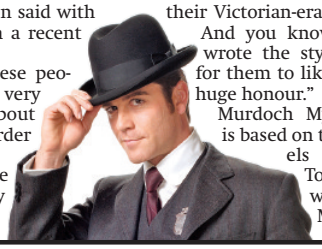
It seems the Brits are smitten with the Canadian super sleuth in Murdoch Mysteries.

The show airs on UKTV's Alibi channel and the station's online fan forum is packed with kudos for the Gemini Award-winning detective series that's set in 19th century Toronto.

And star Yannick Bisson says a group of fans followed the cast around when they recently filmed in Bristol, England for the first time.

They were very protective and made sure everyone felt welcome, he said.

"It was like it was their show and we're their people," Bisson said with a laugh in a recent interview.



"And these people are very picky about their murder mysteries and they're very picky about their Victorian-era shows. And you know, they wrote the style, and for them to like it is a huge honour."

Murdoch Mysteries is based on the novels of Toronto writer Maureen Jennings and airs Sundays on Citytv in Canada. Bisson stars as William Murdoch, a dashing detective who employs forensic techniques that were radical in the late 1800s, like fingerprinting and trace evidence.

Murdoch Mysteries has been airing since 2008 and Bisson said he doesn't take a day for granted.

"There are so many events and things that conspire against the success of a show that you just never really know —whether it's a strike or global economic crises," said the Montreal native.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

LOTTERY WINNER
ENCORE
ENCORE
ENCORE

KAREN LUTZKO

$1,000,000
WINNER

At approximately 8:00 am,

On December 13th, Karen Lutzko's hands started to shake again as she stared at her second major ENCORE win in only months. Karen excitedly thought to herself "here we go again!!" after she scanned her ticket and realized she had won $1,000,000. It was just four months previously that Karen had won $100,000. The French teacher from Oakville who is married with four sons was all smiles, and after seeing Paris once, she might need an encore.

NAME: Karen Lutzko

PRIZE AMOUNT: $1,000,000

GAME PLAYED: ENCORE

TICKET PURCHASED AT:
Hopedale Mall Lottery Shop,
Rebecca Street, Oakville, ON

QUOTE: "Here we go again!!"

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Judge sends DMX back to jail

A judge has ordered rapper DMX to spend six months in a Phoenix jail for violating probation and to undergo a mental health evaluation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

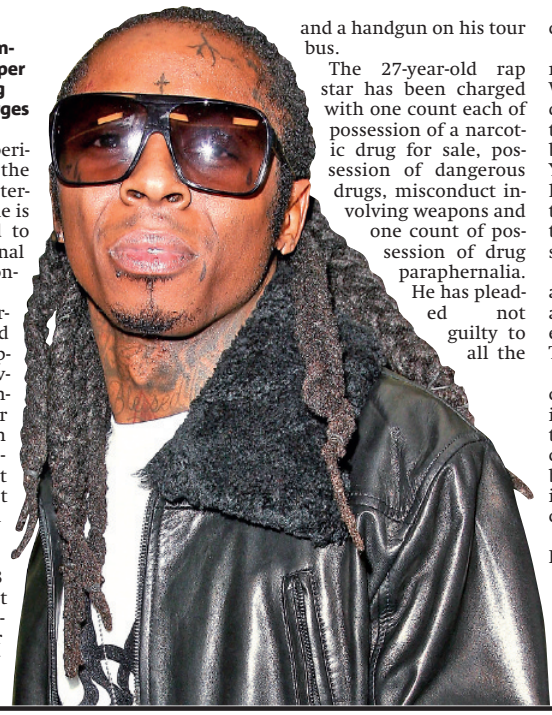
Judge issues warrant for jailed rapper Lil Wayne

A bench warrant was issued Tuesday for Grammy Award-winning rapper Lil Wayne, who is facing drug and weapons charges in Arizona.

A Yuma County Superior Court judge issued the warrant after the entertainer, whose real name is Dwayne Carter, failed to appear in court for a final trial management conference.

But Lil Wayne's attorney, James Tilson, said his client couldn't appear because he's serving a one-year jail sentence in New York for having a loaded gun on his tour bus. The rapper began serving that sentence March 8 at the Rikers Island jail complex.

Lil Wayne was arrested in January 2008 at a border checkpoint 78 miles (125 kilometres) east of Yuma after authorities say they found cocaine, Ecstasy and a handgun on his tour bus.



The 27-year-old rap star has been charged with one count each of possession of a narcotic drug for sale, possession of dangerous drugs, misconduct involving weapons and one count of possession of drug paraphernalia. He has pleaded not guilty to all the charges.

Tilson said he has filed motions to have Lil Wayne's March 30 trial date vacated, and asked the court that his client be allowed to appear in Yuma when he finishes his New York jail sentence. He also has asked that his bond remain the same.

"It does not appear that a trial will be occurring anytime within the next eight to 12 months," Tilson said.

But Yuma County prosecutor Deann Sandry said it was the state's position that Lil Wayne is now a convicted felon and that a bench warrant should be issued and his bond be increased to $150,000.

Lil Wayne's Tha Carter III was the best-selling album of 2008 and won a Grammy for best rap album. His latest album, Rebirth, was released last month.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TO	Vu	SD	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 3/18/10	265	353	2	TVO	Super Structures (N)		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Party Animals		Masterworks		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Bones (HDTV PA)		The Office (N)	Tucson	90210 "Girl Fight" (N)		News Hour
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Office	Omni News: Italian Edition (N)		Vivere V	Omni News:	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Nature of Things (N)		Love, Hate and Propaganda		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: Special Victims		Community (N)	Parks/Recreat	On Purpose	30 Rock	The Marriage Ref (N)		News
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Access H.	The Vampire Diaries		CSI: Crime Scene Investigat'n		Flashpoint (DVS)		CTV News
	218	345	11	CHCH	*Home Fries* ★★ (1998, Comedy-Drama) Drew Barrymore.				*Empire Records* ★ (1995, Drama) Anthony LaPaglia.				News at 11 (N)
	-	-	14	-	Family Guy	The Simpsons	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	King/Queens	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	George Lopez	The Insider (N)	Stargate SG-1		Supernatural (HDTV)		The Insider	Swimsuit 2010	Becker
	-	387	16	CBS	College Basketball NCAA Tournament, First Round: Teams TBA.					College Basketball			
	-	385	17	NBC	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Community (N)	Parks/Recreat	The Office (N)	30 Rock	The Marriage Ref (N)		News
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	FlashForward Mark must meet with a therapist. (N)				(10:01) Private Practice		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Degrassi: TNG	TMZ (N)	FlashForward Mark must meet with a therapist. (N)				(10:01) Private Practice		A News
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	Bones (HDTV PA)		Fringe "August"		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	PBS NewsHour	My Hero	Pat Boone: Love Letters in the Sands of Time			Members' Choice			Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	The Vampire Diaries		Supernatural (HDTV)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Law & Order: Special Victims		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	The Office
	298	653	332	TLA	The Tyra Show (N)		According-Jim	Family Guy	KTLA News	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Vampire
news	502	390	26	NW	The Lang & O'Leary Exchange		Connect with Mark Kelley (N)		CBC News: The National		The Nature of Things		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitzer		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow Report (Live)		Tom Brokaw Reports: Boomer$!				Porn: Business of Pleasure		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	Pokerstars		UFC Primetime	Red Bull Air Race Preview		Toughman	Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	400	400	30	TSN	That's Hockey!	NHL Hockey New Jersey Devils at Toronto Maple Leafs. (HDTV) (Live)					NHL Hockey: Sharks at Canucks		
	411	457	58	OLN	Ghost Hunters		Destination Truth		Oper. Repo	Oper. Repo	Ghost Hunters International		Destin. Truth
	417	406	81	SC	NASCAR	NASCAR Hub	Fast Track to Fame (HDTV)		Bullrun (HDTV)		Bullrun (HDTV) (N)		Pass Time
family	551	542	25	YTV	iCarly	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Simple Rules	What I Like	Family Biz	To Be Indie	Prank Patrol
	554	544	45	TEL	*Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit* (2005)				Futurama	King of the Hill	*Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of Ring*		
cable variety	556	540	51	FAM	Han. Montana	Suite Life	Sonny Chance	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
	602	567	27	W	Supernanny		Love It or List It		Confidential	Confidential	Divine Design	House-Sell	Love It-List It
	570	580	29	MM	Degrassi: TNG	Degrassi: TNG	Springbreak.10 Wild in Cancun.		Springbreak.10 Wild in Cancun.		disBAND	disBAND	UR11
	615	520	31	A&E	The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV) (N)		Manhunters	Manhunters	Manhunters
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	1994 FIFA World Cup in USA				George Lopez	George Lopez	Lopez Tonight
	571	581	36	MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		mmtop10.ca		Audience With Lionel Richie		Gene Simmons
	575	583	38	CMT	Amer. Funniest Home Videos		Reba	Reba	According-Jim	According-Jim	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Unstable
	616	521	39	SHO	Relic Hunter		*Voices* (2007, Suspense) Amy Acker.				Cra$h & Burn (HDTV)		Law-Order
	620	523	40	BVO	Storytellers	PhotoXplorers	Innovators	Writers	*Framed for Murder* (2007, Drama) Elisa Donovan, Perry King.				Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Rich Bride Poor Bride		X-Weighted "Jamila"		Last 10	Last 10	Chop Shop	Chop Shop	ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Ancient Discoveries		Ancestors	Ancestors	Nostradamus Effect		Jobs in Danger
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Martin	Sarah	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Holmes Inspection		House-Bryan	Real Renos (N)	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	House-Payne	House-Payne	Law & Order: Special Victims		Seinfeld	Name Is Earl	*Grosse Pointe*
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		Rip the Runway 2010		*The Hustle* (2003, Comedy) Markee Lawain Adams.				Mo'Nique
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis		Star Trek: Voyager		Human Target "Baptiste"		Lost "Recon" (HDTV) (N)		Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	Peak Season	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	My Life as Liz	My Life as Liz	Taking, Stage	Made	MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Reality	Whatever	Family Guy	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	'70s Show	King	Comeback
	603	561	56	FOOD	Ricardo	Chuck-Day Off	Restaurant Makeover		Extreme Cuisine-Jeff Corwin		Ace of Cakes		Restaurant
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		On the Buses	The Good Life	*The Verdict* ★★★ (1982, Drama) Paul Newman, Charlotte Rampling.				
	621	527	63	STR	Look-A-Like	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		The View (HDTV) (N)		The Dr. Oz Show (HDTV)		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Backyardigans	Night Garden	Waybuloo	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Babar	Little Bear	Toopy & Binoo	Max & Ruby
	526	507	249	VIVA	Cold Case		Missing (Part 2 of 2)		The Closer		Cold Case		Psychic Inv.
	300	601	301	M1	*Chaos Theory*	*The Phantom* (2009, Action) Ryan Carnes.			*Is Anybody There?* ★★ (2008, Drama)		(10:45) *Year One* ★★		
	305	612	306	PIX	*For-Moment*	(7:20) *Denver & Rio Grande* (1952)			*Hart's War* ★★ (2002, War) Bruce Willis, Colin Farrell, Terrence Howard.				
	520	146	-	DISC	Daily Planet (N)		Clash of the Dinosaurs (N)		Clash of the Dinosaurs (N)		MythBusters		Daily Planet
	637	-	-	TVLND	Red Green	Red Green	Fantasy Island		Hart to Hart		Andy Griffith	Phil Silvers	Bizarre
	605	-	-	FASH	Britain's Next Top Model		FashionTele	RAW	FT Found Footage		Britain's Next Top Model		Top Model

critics'corner

30 Rock

Liz (Tina Fey) keeps running into Wesley (Michael Sheen), causing her to question their decision. Tracy (Tracy Morgan) frets about his reputation when his children's former nanny writes a tell-all book. Jack (Alec Baldwin) takes steps to secure his position in the new cable company. Jack McBrayer, Scott Adsit and Judah Friedlander also star in the new episode "Don Geiss, America and Hope." 9:30 PM on NBC CITY

Masterworks

One of Canada's most decorated authors, and one of only a handful of Canadian writers regularly published in The New Yorker, Mavis Gallant is a true national treasure — despite not having lived in Canada for more than 50 years. In the 2008 episode "Paris Stories: The Fiction of Mavis Gallant," Montreal-born Gallant — then 86 — and others talk about her life and literary career. 10 PM on TVO

Latin Grammy winner talks about Mexican drug raid

PEOPLE Latin Grammy winner Ramon Ayala said the lights went out, people started running and he and his band hit the floor when the Mexican military raided a drug cartel's holiday party in December.

Speaking publicly for the first time since the raid and his arrest, the renowned norteno accordion player said Tuesday that he had no idea he'd been booked to play at a private home — much less a drug gang's holiday party — before the raid near Mexico City. He and members of his band, Los Bravos del Norte, were detained.

Ayala has not been charged with any crimes and said Mexican authorities recently told him he was no longer under investigation for ties to drug trafficking. But a spokeswoman for Mexico's federal attorney general's office said the investigation continues into Ayala's possible links to drug traffickers.

"We're completely clean," Ayala said. "We don't have anything pending." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadian film makers honoured at South by Southwest Festival

Winnipeg movie maker Guy Maddin and Toronto-based animator and video artist Nick Fox-Gieg have won film awards at the South by Southwest festival in Texas. Maddin nabbed the jury award for best experimental short film for Night Mayor. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Usher has long-term plans for Bieber

Millions of Justin Bieber's teenaged admirers would claim to be the 16-year-old's biggest fan.

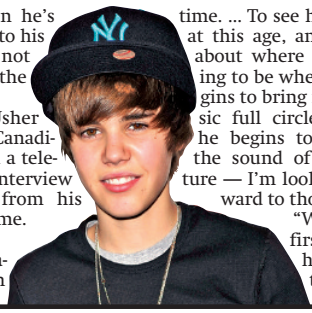
But they might have some competition from R&B star Usher.

As Bieber prepares to drop his debut album, the 16-year-old's high-profile mentor is already looking a dozen years into the future.

Usher — who was instrumental in discovering the Canadian and igniting his fledgling career — has always had lofty expectations for the mop-topped youngster.

And following Bieber's shockingly quick ascent to the top of the international pop heap, Usher's confidence in the teen-popper has only grown.

"I'm thinking of the Justin that you're going to know when he's 12 years into his career, not just in the moment now," Usher told The Canadian Press in a telephone interview yesterday from his Atlanta home.



"Great artists mature with time. ... To see him now at this age, and think about where he's going to be when he begins to bring real music full circle, when he begins to dictate the sound of the future — I'm looking forward to those days.

"When I first saw him, I thought about that — I didn't think about how cute he was, or how personable he was, and how much swag he had."

And of course, since that first meeting, everything has changed for Bieber.

It was back in 2007 when Bieber's mother took to YouTube to upload a collection of clips of the then-13-year-old singing R&B covers.

Those videos — in which Bieber sang tunes by Ne-Yo, Justin Timberlake and, yes, Usher — caught the attention of Scooter Braun, a music manager who promptly whisked Bieber off to Atlanta to meet with Usher.

"When I met him, I immediately knew that this kid was poised to be a star," recalled Usher.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Eat well and support a good cause

Until March 31, some of Toronto's restaurants will offer locally-focused prix fixe menus (either $35 or $50 per person), with proceeds from each meal being donated directly to The Stop, a community food centre. Go to thestop.org for more info. STEPHANIE DICKISON/FOR METRO TORONTO

Urban Foodie

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Dinner & drinks for two: $65

I'm in the mood for comforting, homemade food this week. And with a range of handmade pierogies/pilemny, cabbage rolls, schnitzels, potato pancakes, soups, omelettes, salads and sandwiches, Amber European sounds like the perfect place.

On the web

- Get recipes and more great food content at metronews.ca/recipes.

A tiny, narrow space in Bloor West Village allows about 25 people to tuck in for their meals. Tonight, this casual haunt hosts a group of young excitable girls devouring schnitzels, two men enjoying beer and homemade carrot cake and a gal working a paper while she digs into Potato Pancakes with Goulash ($15.95).

All Pierogies are made in-house, boiled and topped with fried onions, bacon bits, fresh dill and served with sour cream. We get a Small Order (any five pierogies or eight pelmenies — filled with meat) ($7.95) of Sauerkraut and Mushrooms to start. They are surprisingly light and meaty, despite being comprised only of veggies.

The Schnitzels, breaded and pan-fried, come with salads and mashed potatoes. The Amber ($20.95) is topped with mushrooms, the Gypsy ($23.95), bacon and real cheddar cheese. They take up half of our platter-size plates. Rich, velvety veal is thinly veiled in a buttery breading and fluffy, earthy potatoes are the very definition of comfort food.

STEPHANIE DICKISON/FOR METRO TORONTO

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Global Peasant blog online

- Travel along with Diane Thompson's culinary adventures in her Global Peasant blog.
- Check out metronews.ca/globalpeasant for a recipe of June's Lazy Buns.

Dining out

KISS ME I'M IRISH Keep the St. Patrick's Day celebrations going at the brand new Quinn's Steakhouse & Irish Bar (Toronto Sheraton Centre — 96 Richmond St. W.). Executive Chef Paul Pisa has created a sumptuous menu including Guinness-Braised Lamb Shanks, Seared Arctic Char and 100 per cent Canadian, hand selected, aged in-house steaks. STEPHANIE DICKISON/FOR METRO TORONTO

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Looks like a rabbit, eats like a rabbit, it's an ... actress?
Amanda Seyfried sticks diligently to a raw-food diet that she hates, popeater.com reports. "It's intense. And sort of awful," Seyfried says in the new Esquire. "Yesterday for lunch? Spinach. Just Spinach. Spinach and some seeds." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Spears single ... again

ONE OF HER DANCERS, A PAP, HER AGENT. THIS GIRL MAY NEED TO LOOK FOR LOVE OUTSIDE HER ENTOURAGE Britney Spears has split from her boyfriend Jason Trawick, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer reportedly ended her romance with the talent agent at the end of February following a year-long romance because they had been arguing constantly.

A source said, "They were fighting a lot and have not been getting along. They both just needed to take a break from each other. It wasn't working out."

Despite their split, Jason, 38, will still represent Britney through the New York-based entertainment agency, William Morris Endeavor Entertainment, where he works. This isn't the first time the pair have seemingly split. The 28-year-old pop beauty dumped Jason in January after learning he had been flirting with two women at Los Angeles' Roger Room bar before getting back together.

Britney — who has two sons with ex-husband Kevin Federline — and agent Jason started dating in March 2009. They split briefly in August, but soon reconciled.

Since their romance began, Jason has proposed to Britney several times.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Fiercely updating her autobiography

HER NEW HAIR COLOUR IS OF GREAT EDITORIAL IMPORTANCE Kelly Osbourne is revisiting her book Fierce — which also contained self-help advice for teenagers based on Osbourne's own life experiences — to include all the exciting things that have happened to her since it was published last September, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

"Last week I started a rewrite of my autobiography Fierce, which was released last year," she said.

"The publishers and I have decided it could do with updating after everything that's gone on during the past six months, like taking part in Dancing with the Stars, and the cover photo needs changing too — I had black hair then."

Osbourne — who has been in rehab four times to be treated for addiction to painkillers — admits she is more proud of the book than any of her other career achievements.

In the first version of Fierce, Kelly spoke candidly about how she wase addicted to Vicodin by the time she was 17.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

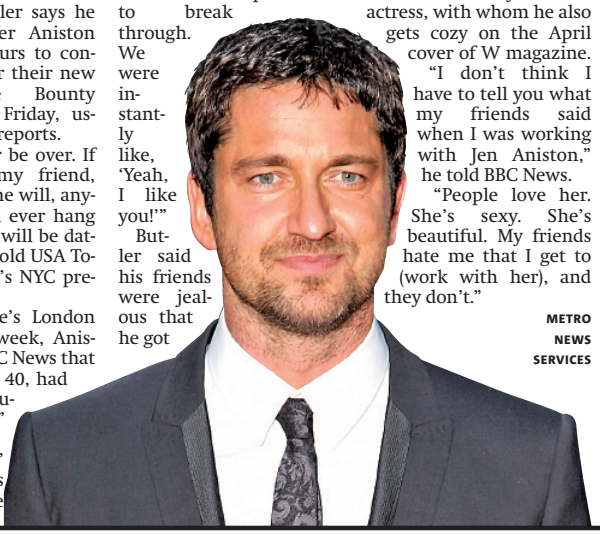
His friends envy him

BUT THE LADIES ENVY HER ... A LOT Gerard Butler says he expects Jennifer Aniston romance rumours to continue well after their new comedy The Bounty Hunter opens Friday, usmagazine.com reports.

"It will never be over. If Jen remains my friend, which I hope she will, anytime we would ever hang out in any way will be dating again," he told USA Today at the film's NYC premiere Tuesday.

At the movie's London premiere last week, Aniston, 41, told BBC News that she and Butler, 40, had a "good, fortunate time" shooting.

"We clicked," she said. "It was just easy. There was no kind of pretension to break through. We were instantly like, 'Yeah, I like you!'"



Butler said his friends were jealous that he got to work so closely with the actress, with whom he also gets cozy on the April cover of W magazine.

"I don't think I have to tell you what my friends said when I was working with Jen Aniston," he told BBC News.

"People love her. She's sexy. She's beautiful. My friends hate me that I get to (work with her), and they don't."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Real serious heart functioning issues

MEDICALLY, NOT METAPHORICALLY Michael Lohan has been rushed to a New York hospital for an apparent minor heart attack earlier this week, according to radaronline.com.

Lindsay Lohan's father was in the hospital emergency room but in good spirits, according to his girlfriend Kate Major.

"Right now, they've told him it looks like he had a minor heart attack, but they are still doing tests," Major told the website from the St. Francis Hospital in Manhasset, NY.

This is the second time in two weeks that Lohan has been rushed to the hospital with chest pains.

On March 7, he was taken to a Massachusetts hospital just before he was scheduled to fight in a celebrity boxing match.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

TYRA BANKS doesn't care about the rules anymore, **JAMIE KENNEDY** feels cheated, **HEIDI MONTAG** is easily entertained, and **RUSSELL BRAND** is getting free advice.

@tyrabanks Committed the utlimate model sin: a french manicure. Models are supposed to wear clear polish. But shoot, I'm retired!

@JamieKennedy I have to give my Dr.72 hours notice when i cancel appt, or im charged, but when she canceled on me 1hr before i didn't free extra sesh. Is that fair?

@heidimontag I love the US Coast Guard so much! They have the coolest gazelle helicopters that fly over our house all the time. GO NAVY! love you guys!

@rustyrockets A surgeon who specializes in gender reversal just told me I'd make a good woman and gave me his card, like it was a haircut.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

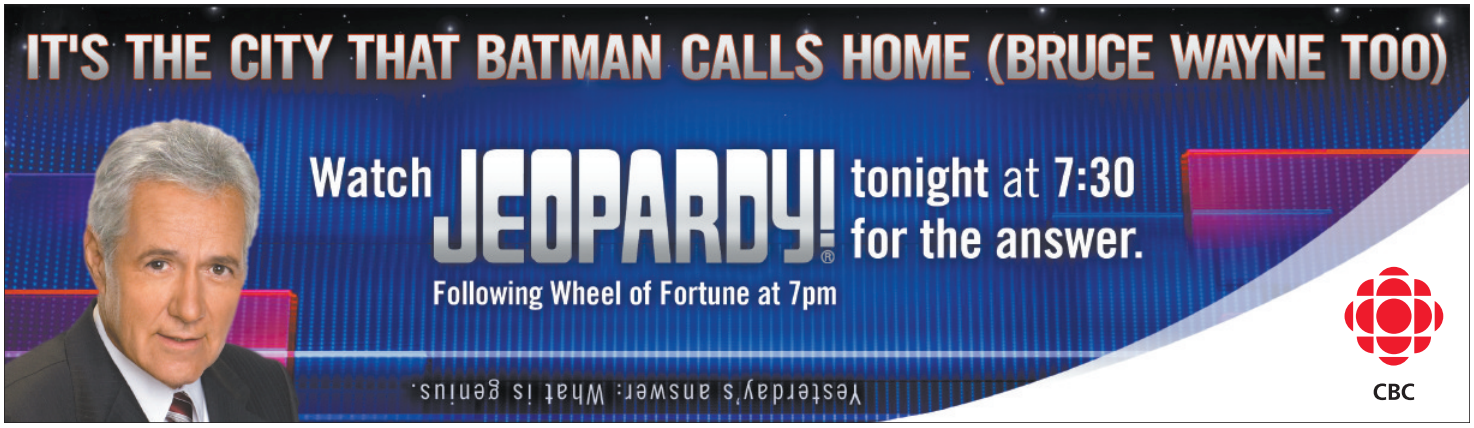
Didn't wish for death

BUT SADLY IT FOUND HIM ANY WAY In the week since Corey Haim suddenly and tragically passed away, the outpouring of grief from his friends has been massive, popeater.com reports.

Now, ex-girlfriend Nicole Eggert is speaking out to Life & Style about the actor's troubled life, in quotes given exclusively to PopEater.

"He didn't want to die," Eggert says in the interview.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



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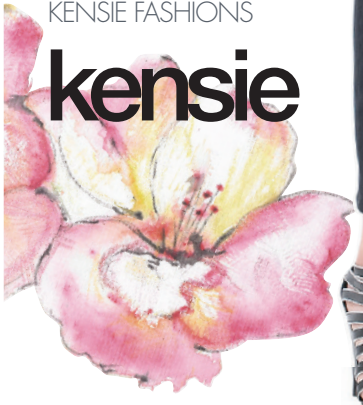

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Celebrity Buzz

He's a big shy softy

GOOD THING IT'S HIS JOB TO SPEAK IN FRONT OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE He may have blushed and seemed "uncomfortable" as he sat beside and kissed his girlfriend on The Tonight Show last week, but Simon Cowell is really "giddy" with when it comes to rumored fiancée Mezghan Hussainy, people.com reports.

Cowell, 50, has been acting "teenagery and happy and light," British actress Amanda Holden tells People.

"They are like Tweedledee and Tweedledum. You can't separate them really."

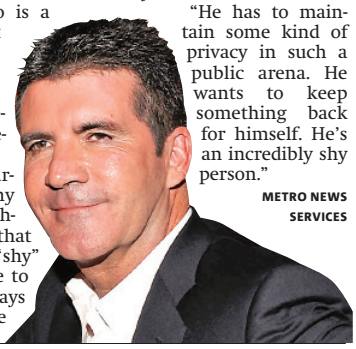
Holden, who is a Britain's Got Talent judge and CBS Early Show special correspondent, might surprise many Cowell-watchers by saying that her friend is "shy" and not prone to outward displays of his private thoughts.

This may explain why he and Afghanistan-born Hussainy, 36, have been so coy about their marriage plans.

"Apart from his mom (speaking about him), he's never really let on much about his private life," she says.

"He has to maintain some kind of privacy in such a public arena. He wants to keep something back for himself. He's an incredibly shy person."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



A change needed in her dating patterns

MAY HAVE LESS TO DO WITH AGE AND MORE TO DO WITH LEVEL OF SKEEZINESS Pamela Anderson wants to date an older man, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The former Baywatch babe — who was previously married to Tommy Lee, Kid Rock and Rick Salomon and recently split from Jamie Padgett — wants to try romancing someone her senior as she thinks it may be the way to a successful relationship.

Talking about the prospect of dating boy band JLS, the 42-year-old blonde said, "I'm sure they are way too young … I need an older man, don't you think?

"I'm going to try that for once."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Bad timing

OR REALLY GOOD TIMING — DEPENDS ON HOW HER PR PEEPS SPIN IT Jennifer Love Hewitt's breakup with Jamie Kennedy comes just in time for the release of her dating advice book, The Day I Shot Cupid, but the actress tells People magazine she's no fan of being single.

"I don't like to go out to clubs and party.

"I'm not into 'Let's go out with one guy on a Monday and another guy on a Wednesday.' That's just not me," the "Ghost Whisperer" star says.

"I'm a relationship kind of girl. I like a twosome."

METRO WORLD NEWS

A brave new age

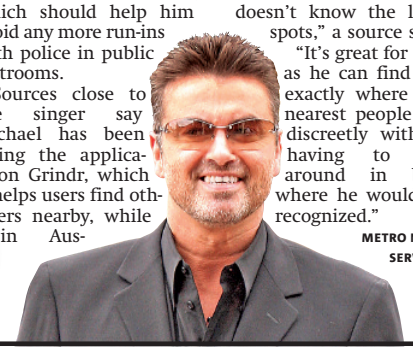
MAKING FRIENDS WHERE EVER HE GOES George Michael has reportedly been using a new iPhone application to make new friends, which should help him avoid any more run-ins with police in public restrooms.

Sources close to the singer say Michael has been using the application Grindr, which helps users find others nearby, while in Australia, according to the Daily Star.

"George has been using the application loads since he has been in Oz as he doesn't know the local spots," a source says.

"It's great for him as he can find out exactly where the nearest people are discreetly without having to ask around in bars where he would be recognized."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Padma's baby

MAY ALSO BE ADAM'S BABY Adam Bell is reportedly negotiating with Padma Lakshmi for more visitation time with their newborn daughter, Krishna.

The Texas-based Bell told guests a recent barbecue "how excited he was to raise her, but that Padma wasn't being entirely accommodating," sources tell Page Six.

A source close to Lakshmi retorted, "An agreement was made with the biological father that was very fair. It's unfortunate if anything inappropriate is being said." Official reps for Lakshmi and Bell have yet to weigh in.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity Buzz

Sarah's a sucker for love

AND KEEPS FALLING FOR THE FUNNY ONES It's no joke, Sarah Silverman still believes in love after the end of her romance with Jimmy Kimmel, people.com reports.

"I'd like to find that person," the comedian, 39, tells Playboy in a new interview.

"I think Jimmy and I had every intention of spending the rest of our lives with each other. I love love. It's my top priority. Jimmy will tell you. I'm a good girl."

Silverman, who is now dating Alec Sulkin, a writer for FOX's Family Guy, says she and Kimmel gave it their best shot in their two stints together between 2002 and 2009.

"We were together for so long and tried our best to make it work," she says. "I can think of him now and don't have that edgy feeling anymore. I just love him to pieces."

She adds, "Sometimes loving each other isn't enough. You have to be responsible for your own happiness. You can't stay in a relationship because you're afraid of the unknown.

"But I will always love him. Sometimes I think maybe we'll die together in our old age or something."

Her new boyfriend apparently doesn't feel overshadowed by her old one.

"He was the one who told me to watch Jimmy's 10 at 10 on Leno the day after he did that," Silverman says. "He isn't ruled by ego; he's just himself."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Bashing down the walls

DARN IT! SHE'S A CELEBRITY AND THAT GIVES HER RIGHTS ... RIGHTS TO DRIVE HER NEIGHBOURS NUTS Brooke Shields has commissioned extensive changes to be made to her $5.6 million US home in the New York City's West Village area, but builders are said to be making so much noise and mess, other residents are threatening to move out, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

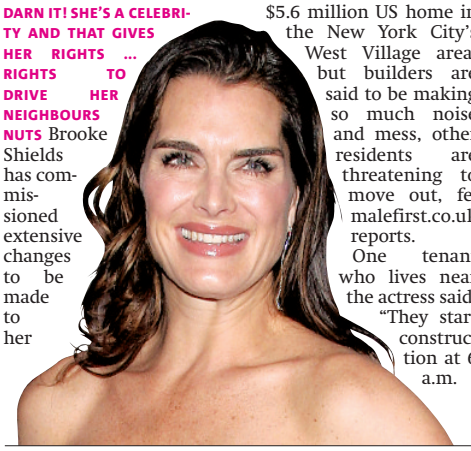
One tenant who lives near the actress said, "They start construction at 6 a.m. every morning, and people are outraged.

"This has been going on for months, and people in surrounding buildings are threatening their property managers that they'll move out if it doesn't stop."

A group of residents reportedly confronted the renovation team but were told, "If you have a problem, take it up with Brooke Shields."

BLDG management, which leases many local apartments, has refused to comment on the troubles reported by the residents, including that the renovations have caused the sidewalk near the star's home to be closed.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Brides and grooms to party

IS THAT LIKE A TARTS AND VICARS PARTY? When Heidi Klum and Seal renew their wedding vows again this year, party attendees will have to adhere to a very strict dress code, usmagazine.com reports.

"It's going to be all brides and all grooms," Klum told E! News.

"All of the women will be brides and all of the men will be grooms."

The supermodel and Project Runway host didn't offer much of an explanation.

"Just one day, I woke up and I was like, 'Oh, I know what I am going to do this year ... ' I like to have fun and I like to make it fun for my family and friends."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Too much sharing

SOMETIMES YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE EVERYTHING Judd Apatow doesn't want to see sex in 3-D.

The movie director, who has previously worked on films including Forgetting Sarah Marshall — where Jason Segal exposed his manhood — and Knocked Up, believes intimate scenes filmed using the technology is unnecessary, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

"I don't want everything in 3-D because I don't want to be in the middle of everything," he said.

METRO WORLD NEWS

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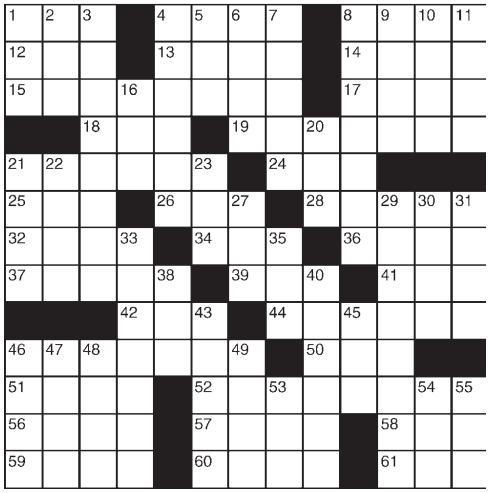
The Weather Network
TWN incorporates MSC data

Today Partly cloudy 16°/4°
Friday Partly cloudy 16°/3°
Saturday Variable 13°/1°

PROUD TO BE ONE OF CANADA'S 50 BEST MANAGED COMPANIES.

Take Five

For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: **metronews.ca/food**



ACROSS

1 Donkey
4 Difficult
8 Clenched hand
12 Cudgel
13 Hodgepodge
14 Formerly
15 Green onion
17 Stench
18 Began
19 Starting at the highest level
21 Diversion
24 Uncooked
25 Here (French)
26 Aries
28 Family branches
32 Fax cover-page word
34 Post-proof abbr.
36 Cry loudly
37 Melodies
39 Grumpy companion?
41 By way of
42 Hiatus
44 Suitor's intent
46 Annual publication
50 Zilch
51 Worms, maybe
52 Bundle of nerves?
56 Wheels of fortune?
57 Duel tool
58 Mine-car contents
59 Paradise
60 Entrance
61 Promptly

DOWN

1 Tummy muscles
2 Pouch
3 Mare's mate
4 Attorney General Eric
5 Foreman foe
6 Laugh-a-minute
7 Recipient's benefactor
8 Network of predatory relationships
9 — -European
10 Garbage barge
11 Sea bird
16 Mainlander's memento
20 — de deux
21 Fissure
22 Beige
23 Online help page
27 Club —
29 Tent at an expo
30 Look-alike
31 Refinery waste
33 Explosive measure
35 Wall Street stat, with "The"
38 — Rafael
40 Eel type
43 Summoned on a beeper
45 Lubricant
46 Competent
47 Positioned
48 Marceau, e.g.
49 Guitar attachment
53 Ultra-modern (Prefix)
54 Acapulco gold
55 Fresh

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

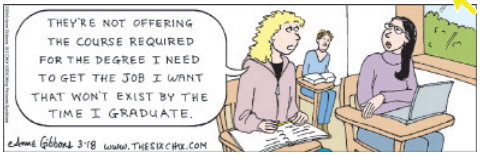
8		4				1		6
	1		3		6		7	
7			1		8			5
		6	5		4	3		
		2	9		3	8		
9			6		1			2
	4		8		2		9	
5		8				7		1

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

8	5	2	6	1	7	4	3	9
7	1	9	3	8	4	5	2	6
4	6	3	5	9	2	8	7	1
5	8	4	9	6	3	7	1	2
3	2	1	7	4	8	9	6	5
9	7	6	1	2	5	3	8	4
2	9	5	8	3	1	6	4	7
6	4	8	2	7	9	1	5	3
1	3	7	4	5	6	2	9	8

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca



Metro Recipe of the Day

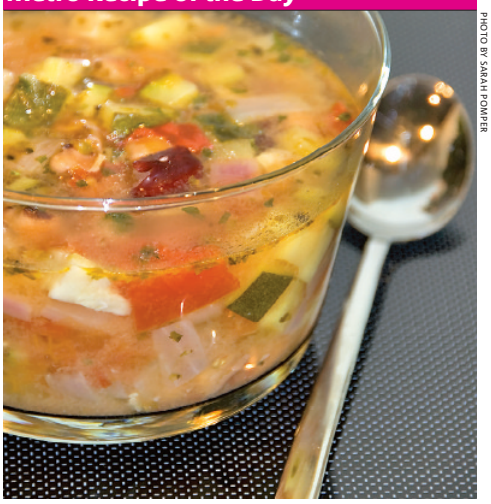


PHOTO BY SARAH POMPER

Zucchini and Bean Soup

Submitted by Karen Benevento, Brampton, ON

INGREDIENTS:

3 tablespoons olive oil
2 medium zucchini, cubed
1 medium onion, chopped
1 cup mushrooms, chunked
2 clove garlic, minced
2 teaspoons fresh thyme, chopped
salt and pepper
1 large tomato, diced
1 carton low sodium chicken broth
1 can beans (kidney, chickpea or a mix), drained and rinsed

METHOD:

1. In large pot, heat oil over medium high heat.
2. Add zucchini and cook, stirring often, for about 5 minutes.
3. Add onion, garlic, mushrooms, thyme. Add salt and pepper to taste and continue to sauté, stirring to prevent vegetables from scorching, about 5 minutes.
4. Gently stir in tomatoes. Add broth. Bring to a boil, reduce to simmer and add beans.
5. Simmer until beans are heated through.
6. Serve with rolls or warmed hearty multigrain bread.

SERVES 4

PREP TIME: 10 MINUTES
COOK TIME: 10 MINUTES

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Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
You will try something totally outrageous today and friends and family may think you have taken leave of your senses.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Someone will give you some excellent advice today, but for some reason you will refuse to take it.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
As a Gemini you are used to doing half a dozen things at once but focus on doing one thing really well, and you'll shine.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Say the wrong thing in the wrong way at the wrong time and you could find yourself out of favour with those who matter.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Don't be too eager to point out other people's mistakes today or you could make an enemy of someone it would have been wiser to keep on your side.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Be careful if you decide to pass on information that you have heard from a friend or work colleague today. Are you sure it's reliable?

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
You may latch on to someone who appears to know what is going on — they are every bit as confused as you but they make a better job of disguising it.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
The planets indicate that what you are currently worrying about is irrelevant, so focus on what is still good in your world.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
You know what you want but you don't know how to get it. The cosmic picture is unsettled so circumstances may yet change for the better.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
You will use what you know about a rival to put pressure on them today, but don't forget that you have a few weak spots as well.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
You may be tempted to lash out at someone who deserves to be told what you think of them but don't go too far or you may spoil your relationship forever.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Don't rush to get where you most want to go today — take your time and enjoy the scenery as it passes by.

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Punta Cana $35
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+ taxes & fees $320

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La Romana	Travel Mar 22 - Mar 29/ts	$49 + taxes & fees $320
Varadero	Travel Mar 22 - 29 , 23 - 30/wg	$55 + taxes & fees $210
Puerto Plata	Travel Mar 21 - Mar 28/5g	$59 + taxes & fees $320
Jamaica	Travel Mar 21 - Mar 28/wg	$65 + taxes & fees $268
Cayo Coco	Travel Mar 23 - Mar 30/wg	$75 + taxes & fees $210
Cozumel	Travel Mar 31 - Apr 7/wg	$85 + taxes & fees $277
St Maarten	Travel Mar 20 - Mar 27/ts	$98 + taxes & fees $240
St Lucia	Travel Mar 21 - Mar 28/ts	$99 + taxes & fees $233
Panama City	Travel Mar 20 - Mar 27/wg	$125 + taxes & fees $220
Costa Rica	Travel Mar 20 - Mar 27/5g	$197 + taxes & fees $210
Bahamas	Travel Apr 13 - Apr 20/ac	$275 + taxes & fees $101

Airfares

Miami
$169

Travel Apr 13 - Apr 20/dl — + taxes & fees $114

Ottawa	Travel May 8/ws	one-way $29 + taxes & fees $46
Fort Lauderdale	Travel Mar 21 - Mar 26/ts	$59 + taxes & fees $231
Orlando	Travel Mar 21 - Mar 26/ts	$79 + taxes & fees $232
New York	Travel Apr 7 - Apr 14/la	$179 + taxes & fees $95
Boston	Travel Apr 20 - Apr 27/pd	$238 + taxes & fees $120
Nashville	Travel Apr 13 - Apr 20/aa	$279 + taxes & fees $120
Phoenix	Travel Apr 20 - Apr 27/dl	$349 + taxes & fees $123
San Francisco	Travel Apr 13 - Apr 20/aa	$419 + taxes & fees $135
Cairo	Travel Apr 19 - May 3/kl	$499 + taxes & fees $403
Delhi	Travel Apr 19 - May 3/kl	$579 + taxes & fees $412
Sao Paulo	Travel Apr 20 - May 5/ua	$749 + taxes & fees $194
Johannesburg	Travel Apr 21 - May 5/af	$929 + taxes & fees $508
Sydney	Travel May 18 - Jun 9/ua	$1047 + taxes & fees $331

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London	Travel Apr 4 - Apr 21/ts	$229 + taxes & fees $404
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Manchester	Travel May 11 - May 18/ts	$249 + taxes & fees $408
Paris	Travel May 10 - May 21/ts	$294 + taxes & fees $356
Hamburg	Travel Jun 9 - Jun 17/ts	$299 + taxes & fees $307
Venice	Travel Jun 11 - Jun 19/ts	$399 + taxes & fees $314
Rome	Travel May 5 - May 12/ac	$639 + taxes & fees $320
Brussels	Travel May 12 - May 26/ac	$725 + taxes & fees $391
Barcelona	Travel May 5 - May 12/ac	$749 + taxes & fees $360
Athens	Travel May 5 - May 19/ac	$769 + taxes & fees $408
Copenhagen	Travel May 12 - May 26/ac	$789 + taxes & fees $365

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Budapest 3 Nights 4-Star + Transfer + Activity — $349‡ + taxes & fees included
Mercure Budapest Metropol
INCLUDES accom with buffet breakfast, arrival transfer and Grand City Tour of Budapest. Travel daily May 1 - Jun 30/ggv.

Hungary, Slovakia & Austria
5-Day River Cruise was ~~$1567~~ now $1017 + taxes & fees included
A Taste of the Danube
HIGHLIGHTS Budapest, Bratislava, Durnstein, Melk, Linz, Grein and Vienna. Depart Budapest. Departs June 30/avw.

Greece Sailing 8-Day Tour was ~~$1299~~ now $1169 + taxes & fees included
Greek Island Sailing
HIGHLIGHTS Cyclades Islands and Mykonos. Departs Athens. Multiple departures in May/gap.

European Wonder 14-Day Tour was ~~$1320~~ now $1170 + taxes & fees included
European Wonder +local payment $360
HIGHLIGHTS France, Switzerland, Italy, Vatican City, Austria, Germany, Netherlands and Belgium. Roundtrip London. Multiple Thursday Departures Apr - Oct/tdk.

Edinburgh to London Castles & Cathedrals 7-Day Tour was ~~$1890~~ now $1323 + taxes & fees included
Castles and Cathedrals
HIGHLIGHTS Edinburgh, Hexham, York, Lincoln, Cambridge and London. Departs Edinburgh. Departs Apr 19/brt.

Greece & Turkey 6-Day Tour was ~~$1399~~ now $1349 + taxes & fees included
Aegean Legends
HIGHLIGHTS Mykonos, Kusadasi, Patmos, Heraklion and Santorini. Roundtrip Athens. Departs Apr 22/glb.

Britain 11-Day Tour was ~~$1775~~ now $1625 + taxes & fees included
Amazing Britain
HIGHLIGHTS Bristol, Lake District, Glasgow, Scottish Highlands, Edinburgh and York. Roundtrip London. Multiple departures May - July/trf.

Italy 11-Day Tour was ~~$2515~~ now $2415 + taxes & fees included
Best of Italy
HIGHLIGHTS Assisi, Venice, Tuscany, Florence, Sorrento, Isle of Capri and Pompeii. Roundtrip Rome. Multiple Departures May - Dec/ins.

Sun Vacations

Cancun
Budget, Air + 5 Nights
$129

Imperial Laguna — + taxes & fees $277
INCLUDES accom with kitchenette. Departs Mar 20 or 21/swg/wg. **UPGRADE** to 4-star Sens Cancun for $20 per night.

Honolulu Air + 7 Nights — $829 + taxes & fees $115
Aqua Palms & Spa
INCLUDES accom in Oahu one block from Waikiki Beach. Departs Apr 20/ggv/dl.

All-inclusive Vacations

Puerto Plata
7 Nights 3.5-Star
$197

Luperon Beach Resort — + taxes & fees $321
Departs Mar 20/nol/ts. **UPGRADE** to 4-star Allegro Puerto Plata from $15 per night. Departs Mar 21/vat/5g.

Varadero 7 Nights 3.5-Star — $327 + taxes & fees $204
Club Puntarena
Departs Mar 19/nol/ts. **UPGRADE** to 4-star Mercure Playa de Oro for $18 per night. Departs Mar 19/swg/wg.

Cancun 5 Nights 4-Star — $345 + taxes & fees $277
Oasis Palm Beach
Departs Mar 20 or 21/swg/wg.

La Romana 7 Nights 4-Star — $418 + taxes & fees $322
Oasis Canoa
Departs Mar 21/sgn/5g.

Punta Cana 7 Nights 4-Star — $440 + taxes & fees $322
Blau Natura Park Eco Resort & Spa
Departs Mar 19/sqv/5g. **UPGRADE** to 5-star Bavaro Princess All Suites Resort for $28 per night. Departs Mar 21/swg/wg.

Panama City 7 Nights 4-Star — $447 + taxes & fees $235
Royal Decameron
Departs Mar 22/nol/ts.

Jamaica 7 Nights 4-Star — $520 + taxes & fees $268
Sunset Jamaica Grande Resort & Spa
Departs Mar 19/sqv/5g.

Cozumel 7 Nights 4.5-Star — $535 + taxes & fees $277
Melia Cozumel Golf and Beach Resort
Departs Mar 24/swg/wg.

Mayan Riviera 7 Nights 4.5-Star — $597 + taxes & fees $272
Occidental Grand Xcaret
Departs Mar 20/sqv/5g.

*Conditions apply. ExToronto. USA and international air only prices are per person for return travel unless otherwise stated. Domestic air only prices are per person for one-way travel unless otherwise stated. Package, cruise, tour, rail & hotel prices are per person, based on double occupancy. Prices are subject to availability at advertising deadline and are for select departure dates. Prices are accurate at time of publication, errors and omissions excepted, but are subject to change. Taxes & fees include transportation related fees, GST and fuel supplements and are approximate and subject to change. ‡Hotel only prices are per person based on double occupancy for total length of stay. *Conditions apply. For full terms and conditions of offers, visit www.flightcentre.ca/campaigns/europe. swg/wg=sunwing, vat/ts=transat, 5g=skyservice, ac=air canada, dl=delta, ws=westjet, la=lan, pd=porter, aa=american, kl=klm, ua=united, af=air france, ggv=gogo, avw=avalon waterways, gap=gap adventures, tdk=topdeck, glb=globus, trf=trafalgar, ins=insight, nol=noltours, sgn=signature, sqv=sunqest. † We will beat any written quoted airfare by $1 and give you a $20 voucher for future travel. "Fly Free" offer applies only where all "Lowest Airfare Guarantee" criteria are met but Flight Centre does not beat quoted price. Additional important conditions apply. For full terms and conditions visit www.flightcentre.ca/lowestairfareguarantee-flyfree Head office address: 1 Dundas St W Suite 200, Toronto, ON. Call for retail locations. ONT. REG #4671384*

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